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Magistrate assassinated south of Algiers

ALGIERS (AFP) — Another Algerian magistrate has been killed, this time in the town of Boussada, southeast of Algiers, the magistrates' national union announced Wednesday. The organisation did not provide any details on the circumstances surrounding Salah Bouhalli's killing on June 12. He was the 19th magistrate killed in Algeria in two years in attacks attributed to suspected Islamic extremists. Boussada lies 250 kilometres southeast of the capital. Since April five lawyers have also been killed in the country including Youssef Fathallah, the president of the Algerian Human Rights League who was assassinated in his office last Saturday. Islamic extremists have waged a terrorist campaign here since January 1992 when the army intervened to cancel the second round of a general election the now banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

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King, U.S. president share hope for comprehensive peace

Clinton: U.S. looking at Jordan's security and economic needs

WASHINGTON (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton Wednesday held two hours of talks at the White House that centred on bilateral relations, progress in the Middle East peace process in general and along the Jordanian-Israeli track in particular as well as other regional issues, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

During a brief encounter with journalists at the White House the King said he shared with President Clinton the "hope that we will have a comprehensive peace in the entire region."

Asked whether Jordan is seeking a separate peace with Israel, the King said that Jordan was "seeking the beginning of serious negotiations on the agenda that was ratified here in Washington (on Sept. 14, 1993) as rapidly as possible."

President Clinton pledged support for Jordan and said that his country would be looking at Jordan's security and economic needs.

Mr. Clinton urged the Jordanian people to lend support to King Hussein's effort to negotiate peace with Israel because the King is "clearly... working to protect the long-term interests of the people of

Jordan."

The president reaffirmed "the support of the United States for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the Syrian track."

He said the U.S. "will do whatever (it) can to keep the negotiations going."

"This remains a very important priority for me and for our administration, and I am very encouraged by where we are now in the whole process, and especially by the efforts that King Hussein has made."

"The United States will support the cause of peace not just in the aftermath of the peace agreement, but on the long run. We believe that our efforts are very much bound with the success of Jordan and Israel and Syria and Lebanon and all the other parties in the Middle East. We think this is a very important part of our future," the president said.

Commenting on remarks by a number of congressmen that the Arab boycott of Israel adversely affected Jordanian-American relations, King Hussein said that an end to the boycott depended on the outcome of the peace process and the Israeli ban on Jordanian products entering the Palestinian areas.

He said Israel should re-

examine its own economic system which is largely based on protectionism and subsidising exports because these measures prevent any open trade between the Arabs and the Israelis.

In reply to questions about Islamic fundamentalism the King said that extremism can be seen in other religions too but Islam is a religion of moderation and the West should not judge our religion from the perspective of extremism.

The King expressed pride in being a Muslim himself.

Referring to relations with the Palestinians, the King said Jordan was providing assistance to them to enable them to run their own affairs.

Following the meeting Information Minister Jawad Anani said it was held in a very cordial atmosphere reflecting the positive trend in the development of Jordanian-American relations.

The King is accompanied by a delegation that includes Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Jordan's ambassador to the United States Dr. Fayez

Tarawneh.

During the meeting with President Clinton, Vice President Albert Gore, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Robert Pelletreau, National Security Advisor Martin Indyk and Middle East coordinator Denis Ross from the American side attended.

King Hussein stressed that Jordan sought peace based on the common agenda reached with Israel and the recent agreement on sub-agendas on the demarcation of the common border and the settlement of issues related to security and water rights.

The congressmen enquired about the proposed confederation between Jordan and Palestine and the King said that this was not being considered at the moment.

Once the Palestinians have regained their rights on their national soil they can decide for themselves their future relations with Jordan, the King said.

Referring to the democratic process in Jordan the King said that it was needed to safeguard man's dignity and basic requirements adding that democracy should prevail in all parts of the Middle East region.



His Majesty King Hussein visits with President Bill Clinton at the White House Wednesday (AFP photo)

Referring to coordination with the Arab parties the King said that Jordan had never sought a separate solution stressing that peace depended on a favourable Israeli response to the Kingdom's requirements.

After the talks, the King and Her Majesty Queen

Noor were guests of honour at a lunch hosted by the U.S. president and first lady Hillary Clinton at the White House.

Earlier the King met with Thomas Foley, speaker of the House of Representatives, Lee Hamilton, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the

House, and 23 house members and discussed with them the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-American relations.

Petra quoted congressmen as stressing that bilateral ties between Jordan and the U.S. were progres-

sing positively in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Petra quoted the congressmen as saying that they understand the problems facing Jordan and that lend support for Jordan in view of its positive stand with regard to the Middle East peace process and its drive for democratisation.

Koreans meet next week to discuss summit agenda

SEOUL, South Korea (Agencies) — In a step towards defusing nuclear tensions, North Korea on Wednesday accepted a South Korean proposal to meet next week to prepare for their first summit.

North Korea said it would send officials to the border village of Panmunjon for the talks Tuesday, but South Korean officials expressed skepticism. Past summit proposals have failed to materialise.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sang-joo said the summit, if held, would focus on suspicions that the north is developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea has refused to accept full inspections of its nuclear facilities as required by the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The secretive, hard-line state says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

In a telephone message Wednesday, North Korea agreed to send a three-member delegation to Panmunjon, said officials from the Unification Board, which deals with inter-Korean issues.

Last week, North Korean President Kim Il Sung told former U.S. President Carter, on a visit to both Koreas to try to reduce tensions, that he was willing to meet South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

South Korea suggested Monday that officials from the two countries meet to prepare for a summit.

Mr. Han called Wednesday's message from North Korea "encouraging" because for the first time it did not make a counter-offer with a different place or date for a meeting.

Presidents of the two Koreas have not met since the division of their peninsula in 1945. Lower-level talks have been held on and off since the 1970s to little avail.

anniversary of liberation in 1945 from 35 years of Japanese domination.

But the date may be difficult for South Korea to accept because the north also plans to hold a rally which Seoul officials say is anti-South Korean.

A poll published Wednesday said 76 per cent of South Koreans believe North Korea is proposing summit talks to avoid international sanctions designed to force it to allow nuclear inspections. But those questioned nevertheless believe a summit could help ease tensions.

Mr. Han, the foreign minister, warned that moves for sanctions would continue if North Korea does not make good on its offers.

China, North Korea's main ally and largest trading partner, opposes sanctions and could block them as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

On Wednesday, China said it admired the willingness of North and South Korea to hold a summit.

"We hope that this meeting will be held soon and can gain positive results," said a foreign ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, a Japanese travel agency said Wednesday that North Korea has decided to lift a ban on issuing visas to Japanese tourists. North Korea stopped issuing the visas a year ago in response to mounting tension over nuclear inspections.

President Kang Ok Joo of Chugai Travel Co. in Tokyo said a state-run tourist corporation in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, notified him of the decision in mid-May.

Also Wednesday, South Korea's largest militant student group, ignoring a government warning, said it would send a representative to North Korea in a few days to promote unification.

Police said any student leaders involved would be punished. The government launched a severe crackdown in 1989 after a student delegate went to North Korea.

South Koreans cannot visit North Korea without govern-

ment approval, which is rarely given.

Unification Minister Lee Hong-Koo, who is widely expected to become the chief southern delegate to the preparatory talks, told reporters on Monday the meeting would decide a venue and date for the summit without setting an agenda.

"We will be very flexible on the issue of agenda for the summit to put the preparatory talks on a fast track," a ministry official said on Wednesday.

The United States, Seoul and their allies have threatened North Korea with inspections of its nuclear plants. North Korea has responded by saying sanctions would mean war.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Tuesday Washington would suspend its push for sanctions and resume high-level talks with North Korea if Pyongyang confirms its willingness to freeze its nuclear programme.

The U.S. sanctions campaign "should not be an obstacle" to taking advantage of an opening in the nuclear crisis that may have been created by Mr. Carter's trip to North Korea last week, he said.

"If we get the kind of confirmation that I've outlined... and if we go to a third round (of high-level U.S.-North Korean talks), it's clear that sanctions would have to be held in abeyance at that time," he added.

'North accelerates missile plans'

In London, Jane's defence weekly said that North Korea is accelerating its long-range ballistic missile programme, and could have one operational by 1996.

The journal reported in March that Pyongyang was developing two new missiles called Taepo Dongs (TDS), one with a long enough range to reach the Pacific island of Guam, where the United States has a major military base.

Arafat delays return till mid-July

JERICHO, West Bank (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat, originally expected here by the end of June will not be coming before the middle of next month, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday.

Colonel Jibril Rajub, head of preventive security in the new Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho, said "Arafat is not expected before mid-July."

"International donors are late in sending us the aid to start building our infrastructure," Col. Rajub told AFP, citing the major reason for the delay.

International donors have pledged to pay immediately \$42 million to help start up Palestinian autonomy. The sum was to be followed by \$30 million, part of a total of \$720 million for the rest of the year.

Col. Rajub also said political factors such as the Palestinian prisoners and Israeli security arrangements at checkpoints contributed to the delay.

Israeli soldiers on Monday stopped chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath at checkpoints twice during a visit to Jericho. He was only let through one of them after

the intervention of Israeli deputy chief of staff Amnon Shahak.

"After my visit to Jericho and what I have seen there of Israeli violations, there is a chance that Arafat will delay his arrival," Dr. Shaath told Al Quds newspaper.

"I would not want him to see what I have seen of military barriers and of obstacles to tourism. We must first solve these problems."

Palestinians complain that Israel is violating the autonomy agreement by keeping tourist buses out of Jericho, which has a wealth of historic ruins and monasteries. They also say Israeli soldiers hold them up for hours at checkpoints around Jericho.

"We have not had any buses in here for two weeks now," said Lieutenant Ibrahim Jadallah, chief of the tourism sector here.

"The soldiers at the checkpoints tell the tourists Jericho is not safe, and just send them back," he said.

An Israeli and Palestinian liaison committee was scheduled to meet Wednesday to discuss the border problems among other matters.

Meanwhile, preparations continued regardless in Jericho for Mr. Arafat's arrival. The delay is likely to

give workers more time to clean up the town.

"We are staying here," said Ramzy Khoury, director of the PLO chairman's office in Tunis, who arrived last month.

"We are preparing the buildings for the government, and for the President (Arafat)."

Israeli Radio reported that Israeli security services are putting the final touches to a massive operation code-named "Garden City" for Mr. Arafat's visit.

The security plan concentrates on maintaining order around the self-rule enclave of Jericho where Jewish right-wingers and settlers have announced protests.

Israelis will be prevented from entering Jericho during the visit and roads through the surrounding Jordan Valley and the northern sector of the Dead Sea will be closed.

Some 250,000 Palestinians are expected to flock to Jericho, which has a population of only 15,000, according to PLO officials. The radio said Israeli forces would filter their entry to the oasis town.

Mr. Arafat's personal security will be maintained by his own bodyguards, some of whom have reportedly already arrived, and the new Palestinian police.

Israeli troops wound 7 in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded seven Palestinians with rubber bullets Wednesday during a march in support of prisoners seeking to be released, Arab and Israeli reports said.

The violence erupted in the West Bank city of Nablus, which remains under Israeli occupation, when soldiers blocked the procession of several hundred students from Al Najah University.

Some marchers threw stones and soldiers fired back, wounding seven, none seriously, the reports said.

University spokesman Nayef Abu Khalaf said the army also used tear-gas against the demonstrators and that fumes wafted into campus offices.

The army had no comment on the reports.

It was the worst outbreak of violence on a Palestinian college campus since the May

4 agreement implementing self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Abu Khalaf said the students were marching in support of Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike for a second straight day to protest the terms for prisoner releases set in the May 4 agreement.

Lawyer Ahmed Sayyad, director of the Mandela Institute that tracks prisoners, said from his prison visits he estimated over 1,300 prisoners are on hunger strike.

The Israel-PLO agreement stipulates that prisoners turned over to the Palestinian National Authority finish their sentences in the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho. The Palestinians said that should only cover common criminals, but Israel included in their number prisoners given life sentences for

killing suspected collaborators.

While it is not considered a problem for the prisoners from Gaza, about 280 from the West Bank were sent to Jericho. They have no housing and the 15,000 residents in the capital of self-rule were upset by the influx.

Israel wants to keep them away from West Bank trouble spots to avoid a flareup in violence that could sour Israelis on the autonomy arrangement, Israeli officials say.

Israel has freed 4,200 prisoners by its count in the last seven weeks, saying hundreds more supposed to be released had refused to sign a statement renouncing violence. Palestinians put the number at around 3,500.

In all, 5,000 prisoners were supposed to have been released within six weeks of the agreement.

Battles rage around Aden

ADEN, Yemen (AFP) — At least a dozen people died and more than 40 were wounded in fighting around Aden on Wednesday as rival Yemeni leaders refused to budge on their demands for a settlement.

Shells slammed into the Dar-Saad suburb, which lies north of the southern city and just 10 kilometres from the front, killing nine civilians and wounding 29, hospital officials said.

Three dead soldiers and seven wounded were taken to hospitals here from Abyan and eight more were wounded at Bir-Ahmad, the officials said.

Southern forces have been resisting a northern offensive for the past three days at these and other fronts within a 25-kilometre radius of Aden.

Katyusha rockets also hit the airport without causing damage on Wednesday as southern jets were taking off for raids on northern supply lines.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's northern troops, and southern forces loyal to his rival Ali Salem Beidh, have been locked in a civil war for almost two months.

The shells crashed into the port area but left no casualties. Artillery duels along the front some 20 kilometres away could be heard in the city.

The systematic shelling of Aden has killed 91 people and wounded more than 300 since Thursday, according to the latest toll.

Northern troops have tried to break through Aden's defences since Sunday, but there was no perceptible change in their positions late Tuesday.

Both sides stuck hard to their positions.

The north "categorically refused" to accept the southern demand for the deployment of foreign observers to monitor a ceasefire, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Anzi, a Saleh ally, said in Qatar.

Four truces have collapsed since the U.N. Security Council on June 1 adopted a resolution calling for an im-

mediate halt to hostilities, with each side accusing the other of firing the first shot.

Mr. Anzi ruled out the possibility that U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi — who failed during a 10-day mission to bridge the gap on the monitoring issue — would return to the region.

Mr. Beidh meanwhile refused to go back on his May 21 declaration of a breakaway state, the Yemen Democratic Republic, saying it was "certainly better than the union that existed before."

He told tribal leaders from the southern Shabwah province he was confident the people in the south could defend themselves, recover what was lost, and build a state of law and order.

He said the YDR should be "the nucleus for any future union" but added that he would never again accept fusion under Mr. Saleh, according to an Aden radio broadcast.

A Western diplomat said Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faysal's talks in London on Tuesday and Paris on Wednesday were to help the south's campaign for U.N. sanctions against the north and for recognition of its breakaway state.

The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad said Egypt is seeking to promote an "Arab initiative" acceptable to Sanaa which continues to reject outside interference.

Egypt asked Mr. Ibrahim to reject the idea of sanctions against Sanaa in order give the initiative a chance, it said.

The north's unremitting siege on Aden prompted Gulf newspapers on Wednesday to condemn "Arab impotence" to prevent "the catastrophe" in Aden.

The Saudi newspaper Al Yom even called for openly recognising the breakaway republic in order to "put an end to the suffering" of the southerners.

War broke out on May 5, unravelling a four-year union between the former Marxist South Yemen and conservative tribal North Yemen.

Rabbani's jets bomb Hekmatyar's airbase

KABUL (Agencies) — Jets of forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani bombed the main airbase of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on Wednesday, damaging the runway, a presidential spokesman said.

Two jets of Mr. Rabbani's forces dropped their bombs on the airport, just south of Hekmatyar's headquarters at Charsayab, 25 km southeast of Kabul, shortly after dawn, said a spokesman for Mr. Rabbani's garrison forces.

The bombs damaged the gravel runway of the airport, he said.

The raid was necessary because Hekmatyar's main ally, northern warlord and ex-commander General Abdul Rashid Dostum, was using the airport to resupply his troops from his stronghold in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, he said.

One jet also bombed a suburb in the southeast of the star-shattered capital near the ruined Chishti Palace that is held by Hekmatyar's forces.

No details of casualties were available because heavy fighting near the city centre had blocked routes to the main hospitals, doctors said.

Artillery battles erupted at dawn near the Darulaman Palace, former home of the kings of Afghanistan, as fighting between Hekmatyar's and guerrillas of the Shiite Muslim group Harakat-Islami entered its seventh day, witnesses said.

Hospitals reported six injured from the exchanges of heavy machine-gun fire, rockets, mortar bombs and shells.

The fighting raged for more than six hours in the morning after a brief lull on Tuesday when the two sides held peace talks.

The clashes began last week after Hekmatyar accused Hekz fighters of stealing one of their vehicles. Harakat is demanding the return of the jeep.

Harkat-Islami supports Rabbani, who has been under siege in Kabul by Mr. Hekmatyar since new year's day. More than 1,500 people have been killed and thousands injured in the fighting.

The fighting has intensified as Rabbani has refused to step down at the end of his term on June 23.

More than 11,500 people have been killed and much of the city reduced to ruins in bloody factional fighting in Kabul since the Mujahideen guerrilla groups seized power from the former Soviet-backed government in April, 1992.

More than one-third of Kabul's 1.5 million residents have fled since the guerrillas formed their Islamic coalition government.

50 civilians injured

More than 50 civilians were wounded in fresh clashes in south Kabul, hospital staff said Wednesday.

In the past 24 hours 51 civilians were admitted to Kabul's Karte Se Hospital after clashes between the two leaders' sides.

Afghan hospital staff said they expected the casualty toll to rise much higher.

The "preliminary peace talks" collapsed Wednesday, said sources in the Shiite faction who were to have hosted the negotiations. Special mediator Jalil Shams reportedly left Kabul after two failed attempts to bring the rival delegations together.

The talks were aimed at seeking a political settlement to end the fighting before the 18 month tenures of Rabbani and Hekmatyar expire June 23.

Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami faction has rejected any talks with Dostum, a former communist and one-time ally who tried to overthrow the president in an unsuccessful coup attempt in January.

Amnesty: Human rights in Turkey 'graver by the day'

LONDON (AFP) — Human rights violations in Turkey get "graver by the hour," notably in the Kurdish-populated south-east of the country, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

Painting an apocalyptic picture of violence and intimidation in Turkey, the London-based human rights group urged the sending of an expert mission to investigate the crackdown on freedom of expression and systematic practice of torture.

The group said the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe should send a mission to Turkey.

"The situation gets graver by the hour. Every week more people are thrown behind bars accused of pro-Kurdish 'separatist propaganda'; death-squad-style killings are reported almost daily; and there has been an alarming increase in disappearances," Amnesty said.

"Unless decisive action is taken now the practice of disappearance, like that of extrajudicial executions and torture, will become established in Turkey as routine tool of intimidation and elimination," the rights group said.

Since the start of the year, at least 24 opposition figures had disappeared without trace and the bodies of many more had been found after their kidnapping, it added.

The situation is particularly alarming in Turkish Kurdistan where 871 villages have been forcibly depopulated and homes torched by government forces, the group said.

Since March, more than 8,000 people have been forced to take refuge in neighbouring Iraqi Kurdistan.

Amnesty's Turkey report also condemned rights violations by the separatists of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) including the murder of civilians, journalists and local politicians.

However, Amnesty said the government "must not use the conflict in the south-east to justify security force violation against its own citizens."

In Ankara Tuesday, two Kurdish deputies from the dissolved pro-Kurdish Democratic Party (DEP), who had taken refuge from arrest in the Turkish parliament, left the building and returned to their homes.

Ankara prosecutor general Nusret Demiral ordered their arrest Monday after Turkey's constitutional court dissolved the DEP for "separatist activities" and announced it was ending the mandate of its 13 deputies.

Of the DEP's 13 deputies, five are already under arrest on "separatism" charges, after their parliamentary immunity was lifted in March. The six others are currently in Brussels and said Monday: "If necessary, we could ask for political asylum but at the current stage we do not envisage it."

On Wednesday, two of the party's lawyers were expected in Paris to meet the other members of an international commission set up to defend the imprisoned Kurdish deputies, one of the lawyers, Feridun Yazar said in Ankara.

The commission of lawyers, trade unionists and politicians from six countries also includes former French foreign minister Roland Dumas as a member.

The group is expected to present a petition to the Human Rights Commission calling for Turkey to be prosecuted for rights violations and suspended from the Council of Europe.

6 tourists, 4 Turk injured in two bomb blasts

ANKARA (R) — Six tourists and four Turks were hurt when two bombs exploded in a tea garden in the Turkish Mediterranean resort of Fethiye, officials said on Wednesday.

"The bombs were full of small shot and exploded at around 10:30 (1930 GMT) last night," an official from Fethiye local administration told Reuters by telephone.

He did not know who was responsible for planting them.

A British embassy official in Ankara said three Britons were hurt in the blast as well as two Germans and an Austrian.

Two are still in hospital and one has already left. As far as we know their condition is not serious," he said.

Hospital staff said none of the injuries were serious.

"Most of them have left. Two had surgery but they are fine now — most just had shot scattered in their hands and feet," a hospital official said.

Anatolian news agency said earlier four Germans, a Briton and an Austrian were injured.

There have been more than 10 bomb attacks on crowded tourist areas and municipal buildings in Turkey in the last few months. In an attack in April, two tourists were killed and at least 15 injured in a bomb blast in Istanbul's crowded covered bazaar.

Some attacks have been blamed on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), fighting for an independent state in the south-east. The PKK brought its guerrilla fight to the west last year when it targeted resorts on Turkey's touristic western and southern coasts. It has vowed to do so again this year.

'Despite media rhetoric, Syria eager for peace'

By Kate Doumian
Reuters

DAMASCUS — Syria's state media has been repeating the same refrain for months — no peace with Israel until all occupied lands are restored to the Arabs, even if it takes years.

But diplomats say their reading from Syrian officials is that Syria is keen to achieve progress in the U.S.-sponsored talks with Israel.

"Forget about the editorials. Syria is eager for peace even if you hear the newspapers talking about Syria willing to wait months or even years," said one diplomat.

While it is hard to gauge the political mood in Syria with certainty, one theme remains constant: Damascus will only accept a settlement if it meets the criteria set out in U.N. resolutions. Partial deals or secret meetings are non-starters.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday renewed a call for direct, high-level talks with Syria while visiting the Golan Heights seized from it in 1967.

President Hafez Al Assad's spokesman, asked by Reuters to comment on Mr. Rabin's proposal, repeated the official line.

"We are with international legitimacy. We cannot offer more than that," Joubran Kourieh said.

But diplomats say there is a hint of urgency in the political mood, particularly since Jordan accelerated talks with Israel.

"Syria certainly does not want to be left behind. It's just that it would prefer the other Arab countries to move at its pace rather than the other way round," one diplomat said.

The Syrian media and officials, while upholding the virtue of coordinated Arab action towards the goal of a comprehensive regional peace accord, have not attacked Jordan directly for resuming contact with Israel.

The diplomats say Damascus is peeved that Amman stole its thunder and they expect it to take the initiative and step back into the limelight.

There has been no progress in the Syrian-Israeli talks since they were launched at the Madrid peace conference of 1992 with Washington and Moscow as sponsors.

Syria has blamed what the media calls "Israeli obstinacy" for a decision by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to delay a trip to the region.

The diplomats caution against reading too much into editorials which suggest a hardening of Syria's stance.

"The goalposts have been set even though the two sides remain far apart and the proposals remain unacceptable to both sides. But it is something to work on," one said.

The gist of the proposals, as reported in the Israeli media and in Washington, appears to involve a phased Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights with the timing and number of stages to be discussed.

Syria is insisting on an Israeli declaration that would enunciate clearly its agreement in principle to withdraw fully from the Golan before it will satisfy Israeli demands for normal relations, including trade and diplomatic ties.

The official Syrian news agency SANA on Tuesday quoted U.S. official sources in Washington as telling an Arab radio station that Syria had informed Mr. Christopher that his return to the region would be fruitless if he did not obtain "an Israeli commitment in principle for a full withdrawal from the Golan."

Diplomats in Damascus say it is not unusual for Syria to make its position known in an indirect way.

Mr. Christopher on Monday predicted progress in Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations before the end of the summer.

Syria's editorial writers shifted gear Tuesday.

Al Baath newspaper, organ of the ruling party, reminded Israel — which is no longer referred to as the Zionist state since the peace talks started — that its talk of needing to guarantee its security was misplaced since Israel was the aggressor and not the Arabs.

Egyptian authorities crack down on Muslim Brotherhood

By Mae Ghalwash
Agence France Presse

CAIRO — In an abrupt change of policy, the Egyptian government is cracking down on the Muslim Brotherhood, an organisation it had until recently sought to use as a counterbalance to militant Muslim radicals.

"The government had an illusion that by tolerating the Brotherhood they were showing that they were against terrorism, but supported Islam," said Nigad Boral, secretary general of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR).

"But then they realised that was fueling the terrorism," because the organisation ultimately shared the same aims, he added.

The government turned on the Brotherhood, a non-violent Islamic movement, after an intensive police offensive succeeded in neutralising the main militant group, the Jamaa Islamiyya.

Security forces killed leading members of the Jamaa and rounded up hundreds of suspects to end a violent anti-government campaign by militants which claimed more than 300 lives.

"When the government felt they were close to a final victory against the violent elements of the religious movement, they started a campaign against the political elements," a Cairo-based diplomat, who closely monitors the movement, said.

For the first time since Hosni Mubarak became president in 1981, popular Muslim scholars who sympathised with the Brotherhood have been barred

from state media.

Egyptian officials are describing the Brotherhood with terminology once reserved for the militants — like "illegitimate" and "terrorist".

And although the detention of Brotherhood members is routine, some are facing capital punishment.

The Brotherhood was officially banned here in 1954, after a failed assassination attempt on President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

But under Mr. Mubarak, the group had been allowed to function openly.

Although banned from joining parliament under a religious party ban, the Brotherhood joined as independents and Socialist Labor Party members.

They have virtually taken over student associations and professional unions, representing doctors, lawyers and engineers.

Government officials hoped that by tolerating the Brotherhood they would counter militant accusations that they were unbelievable.

But it became clear that despite being non-violent, the Brotherhood shared the militants' objectives.

"Our political aim is to oust the government," confirmed Brotherhood member Essam Al Arian.

Prominent Islamic scholar Fahmy Howeid, a fundamentalist sympathiser, was barred from writing his weekly opinion piece in the semi-official daily Al-Ahram.

The provocative but popular Sheikh Mohammed Al Ghazali no longer appears on religious television programmes.

And the public prosecutor last month summoned the Brotherhood's general guide, Hamed Abu Al Naser, for questioning about a leaflet distributed last

May which allegedly attacked the government.

He became the first prominent Brotherhood member to be summoned since Mr. Mubarak became president.

Police last month also arrested 10 Brotherhood members and charged them with forming an illegal organisation and plotting to overthrow the government, resurrecting a case which first came to light two years ago.

It was the first time in Mr. Mubarak's presidency that such charges — punishable by death — have been brought against Brotherhood members.

The Brotherhood members were linked to Salsabeel, a data gathering company which police said covered for an illegal group.

Investigators in 1992 found a Salsabeel document called "The Enablement", which laid out a detailed plan to oust Mr. Mubarak's government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

But the government did not act then, explains Hafez Abu Sida, an EOHR field worker who attended the Salsabeel interrogations. They feared the Brotherhood's support in the professional unions, plus the activity of the militant elements.

So they agreed instead to ignore the document, if the Brotherhood restricted its activities within the unions.

"The government reopened the case because the Brotherhood became active (in the unions), and they are almost rid of the violent (elements)," Abu Sida said. "Before it was the Brotherhood that was attacking, now it is the government that has waged war against the Brotherhood."

BYTE magazine launches Arabic edition

AMMAN (J.T.) — McGraw Hill announced Tuesday that it has signed an agreement with Arabian Communications & Publishing (ACP), a pan-Arab publishing corporation, to publish an Arabic language edition of its leading computer magazine, BYTE.

BYTE Middle East, as this edition will be named, is the first ever Arabic language magazine licensed by McGraw-Hill. It will begin regular monthly publications in November of this year coincident with GITEK, the major computer show in the Middle East to be held this year in Dubai. A special premiere issue of BYTE Middle East will be published by mid-August.

BYTE Middle East, which will have a focus in Dubai, Riyadh and Amman, will be distributed throughout the Middle East and North Africa. It will combine appropriate editorial material from BYTE with locally generated news and features by local correspondents and writers based in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Oman, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon.

BYTE Middle East will also provide an English language news section for the computer professionals in the Arab world.


ing computer professionals who are at work in the Middle East, especially in the Gulf region.

"BYTE is very protective about the use of its name," said Ronald W. Evans, publisher of BYTE magazine.

"Therefore, we conducted an extensive search for the right publishing partner to use the BYTE name in the Middle East."

BYTE Middle East publisher Osama Al Sherif remarked further: "The appearance of BYTE Middle East will be a landmark event for Arabic language computer publishing. ACP is excited about being the publishing organisation that will have this unique opportunity to combine the best of BYTE's global technology journalism with coverage of issues and events of local concern to computer professionals in the Levant, the Gulf, and the Maghreb."

Khaldoon Tabaza, Editor-in-Chief of BYTE Middle East noted, "We are also delighted that we will be including, along with BYTE material, editorial coverage and laboratory test results on computer hardware and software from National Software Testing Laboratories, BYTE's sister company at McGraw-Hill."



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THE ATMOSPHERE CREATORS

For your entertainment we are pleased to announce to our members and guests that we have installed a network satellite monitoring system throughout the disco connected to our earthquake surround sound system, in addition to the very latest laser beams and lighting effects introduced to you by our two live D.J.'s.

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PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 News in French
17:30 News in Arabic
18:00 News in English
18:30 News in Arabic
19:00 News in English
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 News in English
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 News in English
21:30 News in Arabic
22:00 News in English
22:30 News in Arabic
23:00 News in English
23:30 News in Arabic

PRAYER TIMES

05:51 Fajr
06:25 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37 Asr
16:10 Maghrib
18:24 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish Tel. 210740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 657579
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674400
De la Salle Church Tel. 667757
Taramon Church Tel. 62365
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather will prevail with winds northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

min-max temp.
Amman 20/34
Aqaba 22/40
Jordan Valley 18/28

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 33, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 38.5 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN
Dr. Asaad Adhbi 605207
Dr. Sami Tawil 785285
Dr. Fadi Khamis 750197
Dr. Khalid Al-Jabir 816715
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Al Salan pharmacy 626072
Yarash pharmacy 64945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Fayed Oadi 348743
Al Oud pharmacy 68111

ZARQA:
Dr. Tareq Hijawi 954545
Khafar pharmacy 68111

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 63041
Civil Defence Emergency 199

AMMAN

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Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
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Water and Sewerage 641177
Complaints 647467
Ambulance 641177
Corporation 767111
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electrical

Electrician 636361
24 Hour Electrician 663326
Cable TV 663326

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EMER

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 23-24, 1994

French business teams to discuss boosting Kingdom's industry

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two French business delegations are due in Amman this weekend for talks on trade ties and ways of helping boost Jordan's industrial sector.

On Friday, a 16-member delegation which had been to Iraq is coming to Amman for a one-day visit during which it will sign with the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) an agreement for the establishment of a joint Jordanian-French Business Council, according to JBA sources.

The visit and the creation of the joint council were prepared during last month's meeting in Paris of Jordanian and French businessmen who were sounding the possibility of boosting economic cooperation, said the sources.

The delegation, to be led by Thierry Courtaigne, will meet with JBA members and follow up discussions on the joint ventures that were re-

viewed at the Paris meeting. The meeting in the French capital was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf.

The delegation, according to the sources, will visit the Amman Chamber of Industry and discuss projects related to textiles and the shoe industry.

Chamber officials said that in 1993 Jordan imported from France commodities worth JD 98.5 million up from JD 78 million in 1992, whereas Jordan's exports to France increased to JD 1.3 million, up from JD 90,000 in the previous year.

The chamber source said that Jordan has been exporting potash, vegetables and fruits to French markets and importing television sets, cars, cheese, scents, spare parts for machinery and vehicles, poultry, radiators and boilers and parts for aircraft, among other commodities.

The Paris meeting, accord-

ing to JBA President Hamdi Tabbaa, was designed to help Jordan increase its exports of potash, fruit and vegetables to France and other European countries.

On Saturday, a seven-member French delegation of businessmen is due here on a three-day visit.

Chamber of Industry sources told the Jordan Times that the team includes representatives of various industrial concerns who would discuss prospects of helping establish small- and medium-size industrial schemes to produce components for larger Jordanian industries.

The team will be meeting with Industry and Trade Ministry officials, the Chamber of Industry and Trade Industrialists, according to the sources.

The team is expected to meet with the ministry's Secretary General Marwan Awad and the members of "sub-contracting unit" whose duty is to provide service to the industrial sector in Jordan.



Thounqan Al Hindawi

Jordan, India discuss cooperation in agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Topics related to Jordanian-Indian trade and the joint fertiliser project implemented in Jordan were reviewed Wednesday by acting Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi and visiting Indian Agriculture Minister Bahram Jakhar in the presence of Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif.

Mr. Hindawi was briefed by the two ministers on the outcome of talks they have been holding over the past two days related to trade and agricultural cooperation between Jordan and India.

Being the main importer of Jordanian phosphate and fertilisers, India is expected to buy \$145 million worth of these products from Jordan this year, said Sameh Madani, director of general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), following a meeting with Mr. Jakhar.

But Mr. Madani noted that India's imports of Jordanian products registered \$157 million last year, up from \$95 million in 1991.

Referring to Jordan's imports from India, Mr. Madani said that last year they registered \$76 million, up from \$21 million in 1991.

He said that Jordan imported Indian soyas beans, cereals and frozen meat along with pesticides, machinery and machine spare parts.

India and Jordan are currently implementing a \$165 million factory to produce phosphate-based fertilisers. The Indian minister also Wednesday met Suleiman Howari, director general of the Arab Potash Company (APC), who said later that Jordan's potash exports to India this year could reach 420,000 tonnes.

The agriculture minister, accompanied Mr. Jakhar on a tour of the Graeco-Roman city of Jerash and agricultural projects in the Zarqa River Basin as well as the King Talal Dam.

Ministry of Health, WHO to launch 5-year plan for fighting AIDS

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Working in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Ministry of Health is preparing an integrated programme to fight off the killer disease AIDS in the coming five years; the private and public health sectors are also involved in this national scheme.

The announcement was made Wednesday by Dr. Makram Nshewat, director of the Medical Professions Department at the Ministry of Health, at the opening of a three-day workshop organised at the Jerusalem Hotel by the Jordanian Society for Family Protection and Planning, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the WHO.

"Reaching out to the most vulnerable sectors in our society and orienting them on means of protecting them-

selves against AIDS is at the top of priorities of the five-year plan," said Dr. Nshewat who deputised at the meeting for Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh.

The Health Ministry had said that until last month only one AIDS case was registered among Jordanians and three among foreign nationals, raising to 70 the total number of Jordanians and to 30 that of foreigners infected with the disease since 1986 when the first case was reported.

Despite the fact that Jordan is among the countries with a very low rate of AIDS cases, the Health Ministry is determined to double its efforts to stem the disease completely through spreading awareness among the youth and through various public awareness campaigns, said Dr. Nshewat.

Indeed, the Health Ministry embarked on awareness programmes ever since 1980 and has been adopting mea-

sures of screening blood donated by people, testing incoming visitors and controlling all blood transfusion processes, added Dr. Nshewat.

The fact that the WHO has adopted the motto "AIDS and the family" for this year indicates that special attention must be given by families to the need of combating the disease, and the ministry is therefore trying to mobilise all public and private sectors to attain the aspired goal, according to Dr. Nshewat.

Dr. Omar Suleiman, WHO representative, told the meeting that ignorance and poverty are fertile grounds for the spread of AIDS.

Noting that the Middle East region has a total of 75,000 AIDS cases, Dr. Suleiman said that this was largely due to the fact that the countries of this region host 80 per cent of refugees and displaced persons as a result of conflicts or natural disasters and also because the Middle East contains many

tourist attractions inviting visitors from around the globe.

To fight the killer disease worldwide, he added, six world organisations, including the WHO, will meet next year to embark on the implementation of a world-wide campaign, added Dr. Suleiman.

Dr. Abdullah Abul Afia, head of the Jordanian society that organised the workshop, reviewed the society's various activities through its 12 clinics in the country to fight off AIDS.

The activities, he said, included seminars and lectures, as well as workshops, to spread awareness about AIDS and means for prevention.

Several Health Ministry officials delivered lectures at the opening session of the workshop which is attended by representatives of the public and private health sectors in Jordan.

'Time to discuss tourism with everyone'

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan believes that having any kind of contact over tourism with Israel at this stage is "premature" businesspeople in the trade think otherwise.

"We have to deal with matters in an open-minded and pragmatic manner," says Mohammad Imam, general manager of International Tourist Travel Services, adding that in view of the tangible progress on the Jordanian-Israeli peace track, Jordanian travel and tourist agents have to start communicating with the Israelis to prepare for any future bilateral agreement on tourism in the region.

Mr. Imam adds that "we should not act like ostriches and hide away from reality." The reality, according to him,

is that Jordan's tourism cannot survive without coordination with Israel, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

Dr. Adwan maintains that matters concerning tourism in the region will only be discussed in current peace negotiations.

While informed sources in the tourism business told the Jordan Times that Jordan was represented in a tourism conference in Tel Aviv on June 13, Dr. Adwan said that he "had no knowledge of it, has not been consulted (on the issue), and, therefore, (he) can deny it."

The Israeli daily newspaper, Haaretz, said last week that five Jordanian businessmen were scheduled to attend the conference for which "Jewish businessmen were queuing."

The tourism business sources, who asked not to be

named, said that there was no harm in participating in such "friendly and beneficial" conferences to hear the "other point of view."

Mr. Imam said that since "we sat with the Israelis in Madrid, Washington and will be doing so in Aqaba next month, it is no big deal to meet with them in the occupied territories for business purposes."

He said he believed preparations should start by providing the "proper" infrastructure for tourism-related projects in Petra, the Kingdom's main attraction, and by establishing other bridges linking both the Palestinian self-rule areas and Israel to Jordan.

"We want tourists coming from the Holy Land to come and stay and not just use Jordan for an excursion," said Mr. Imam.

47 duty exempted projects registered

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the first five months of 1994 the Ministry of Industry and Trade registered 47 approved economic projects which are normally exempted from customs duty on equipment and assets, according to Iyad Qudah, assistant director of the Department for Encouraging Investment at the ministry.

Mr. Qudah said that the ministry also registered 25 economic projects which have less levels of exemptions and approved the expansion of already existing 152 other economic projects.

According to Mr. Qudah, these projects combined created 6,230 jobs, registering 453 more compared to the jobs created in the same period of last year. An approved economic project is exempted from income tax, as well as customs fees, while the economic projects enjoy exemption from customs duty only on their fixed assets, according to Mr. Qudah.

He said that exemption from income tax lasts from the time when project has been established until the start of production. Many are industrial projects, producing items for export, he added.

Earlier this month, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf announced that the government plans to cancel all taxes collected on income from exports and a special meeting was expected to finalise a decision in this matter.

The minister said that the government plans to grant 100 per cent income tax exemption on exports, up from the present 70 per cent, in order to encourage local industrial projects to export goods and try to open new markets for Jordan in Europe and America.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Graduation ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan Wednesday held the last graduation ceremony for this academic year for students from the faculties of medicine (85), law (259), nursing (184) and post graduate studies (683). A series of ceremonies were held earlier for the graduation of batches of other faculties.

Shafi'i, Bakhit hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The deputy director of the Islamic Education Ministry, Mohammad Shafi'i, Wednesday held talks with Al Al-Bayt University President Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit on cooperation in Islamic education. Dr. Bakhit outlined Al Al-Bayt University's programmes which focus on the teaching of Arabic language and Islamic studies to students from the Arab and Islamic World.

Environment seminar

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — The Business and Professional Women Club and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation Wednesday organised a one-day seminar on ways of protecting the environment from pollution at Deir Alla, in the Jordan Valley. Among the speakers was Dr. Halah Al Khaimi, from the University of Jordan, who talked about rural women's contribution towards protecting the environment and the dangers of excessive use of pesticides.

WHAT'S GOING ON

WORLD CUP USA 1994

★ Arabic language video series of World Cup football matches entitled "World Cup USA 1994" at the American Center auditorium (4:00-5:00 p.m.).

FILM

★ Video film in French on sculptor "Olivier Descamps" at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwzbeh on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
★ Film entitled "Wildcats" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. (106 minutes).
★ Film entitled "27 Hour" at the Spanish Cultural Centre on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. (Tel. 610858).

THIRD YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

★ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Strongest" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ A painting exhibition by Iraqi painters the Pioneers Group at Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Sagra Tel.: 644451, at 7:00 p.m.
★ Painting exhibition by Naila Deeb on the Goethe-Institut at 5:30 p.m.
★ An art exhibition "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition" by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq and the Spanish Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of paintings by Sophia Ziadah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of works by several Arab artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Fradi at the Orfall Art Gallery in Umm Uthelma (Tel. 826932).
★ Child Needs Expo at the International Motor Exhibition, Airport Highway (Tel. 653836).
★ Exhibition by plastic artist Shawkat Al Alousi at the Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 672872).
★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.
★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjourri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 728677).
★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'un at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwzbeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

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AMMAN - ANTALYA		
(19/06 - 28/08)	Departure	Arrival
SUNDAY	05:15	07:10

AMMAN - ISTANBUL		
	Departure	Arrival
Monday, Friday	06:00	08:45

Amman Office: Jabal Amman, Third Circle.
Al Riyadi Center, 8th Floor. Tel: (6) 659102/659112.

TURKISH AIRLINES

Jordan Times

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Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Parallel, not competing, tracks

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has only expressed the inevitable when he announced in Washington Tuesday that the Jordanian negotiating track need not be bogged down by progress, or the lack of it, on other tracks. The Jordanian-Israeli negotiations due to start again next month in the region are "not negotiations linked to anything that may or may not happen on any other track," the King said. He went on to add that the Kingdome's negotiations with Israel constitute "a sovereign matter involving Jordan itself and has nothing to do with, nor is it tied to, movements on any other track."

This Jordanian decision was not taken in a vacuum. It is no secret that there has been no adequate coordination between the various Arab parties to the peace process despite pretenses to the contrary. Jordan has all along the years called and insisted on full and bona fide cooperation and coordination between the Arab negotiating teams. No one can accuse Jordan of not having been steadfast in that direction throughout the past years and ever since the Madrid peace conference was launched in 1991. There was a time when Jordan was the first Arab party to reach preliminary agreement with Israel but decided to put its track on hold until the other Arab parties register equal progress. Recent developments revealed that Jordan ended up far behind in its own negotiating process. The record of Arab coordination speaks for itself and the least that can be said about it is that it did not reflect the degree of coordination and openness that Jordan had hoped for.

However, Jordan remains committed to the need for achieving a comprehensive peace in the region, ensuring not only Jordan's sovereign rights but also those of our brethren in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. Besides, there is no way that the PLO can complete its negotiating process with Israel as long as Jordan's interests continue to be held in suspense. The resolution of the Palestinian question and the quest for Palestinian independence necessitate not only Jordanian support but also parallel progress on the Jordanian front in order to give an added coherence to the Palestinian just and legitimate aspirations.

All Arab parties are poised to move to an advanced stage in their respective negotiations. What is holding up some of them is not substance but form. Jordan, therefore, believes that a comprehensive settlement of the conflict is not only desirable but essential, since peace is the goal of all the peoples and leaderships in the region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday tackled the Palestine refugees question, saying that they were ignored in the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process. Of course, we do not expect the refugees question to be solved through their repatriation to their usurped lands but at least they should receive compensation for their loss of property and homes, said Youssef Abdullah Mahmoud. The issue of compensating the refugees is the focus of attention of Mohammad Rabie, who is currently visiting Jordan to discuss prospects of compensation, which is the right of the Palestinian people who have been displaced and living since 1948 in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinian camps of the occupied territories, said the writer. The writer said that Dr. Rabie should urge the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to make it a condition that compensation will be paid prior to achieving a lasting settlement. The writer said that the world community should support Dr. Rabie's idea of creating a special organisation for the rights of the refugees so that their plight can be presented at the world level and that serious efforts be made to ensure safeguards for their rights.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Wednesday demanded that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) ask for the release of all detainees. Mohammad Kawash said that by forcing the released detainees to remain confined to the autonomy rule in Jericho, Israel is trying to create further problems for the Palestine National Authority, which is dedicating its time and effort to provide much needed help to the Palestinians following 27 years of occupation. By withdrawing its forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho areas, said the writer Israel has aimed at shifting the burden of catering to the social and economic needs of the Palestinian people and their institutions to the Palestine National Authority, which has not yet received any of the promised aid to help it establish its control of the evacuated regions. The Palestinian people under autonomy rule, added the writer are in need of better life, jobs and services, not of more complications and additional burdens.

The View From Academia

The Middle East peace process, the U.S. role and the Arab position

By Dr. Ahmad H. Majdoubeh

UNQUESTIONABLY, the U.S. role as sponsor and broker in the Middle East peace process and the positive Arab response to peace initiatives are two fundamental factors which have significantly contributed to the overall improvement of the prospects of a comprehensive settlement of the region's various thorny issues, a settlement which appears closer to attain now than it has ever appeared since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, while the American involvement is on the whole active but cautious, Arab reciprocation or engagement is generally warm but somewhat unenergetic.

Presently, the U.S. administration's stance with regard to the Middle East conflict seems far more informed and affirmative than it has been for years. Three points need to be highlighted in this respect.

1. To be sure, one is still frequently vexed by Washington's often "bland," unscrupulously, ambiguous and extremely noncommittal statements on Jerusalem, the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, and Israel's procrastination tactics in negotiations with the Palestinians as well as (most recently) Israel's flagrant violations of the principles of the agreement with the PLO. Furthermore, one is still disappointed with its handling of the Aqaba affair, the siege imposed on the Iraqi people, and its bias toward Israel. The American administration is, until this very day, much more alert to, supportive of and sympathetic with Israel's concerns, wishes and even whims than Arab needs and rights. The treatment is not even-handed.

Nevertheless, it has recently shown, through words and deeds, a willingness and a readiness to shift into a more desirable and fruitful relationship with the Arab Middle East, one which is more conscious and respectful of Arab feelings, aspirations, and national ideals. One often detects a more sober tone in American political discourse on the Arab and Muslim Worlds than at any time before. Also, the U.S. support for the PLO self-rule accord with Israel, the pledge to finance projects in the occupied territories, the constant contacts with Amman and Cairo, the channels of communication with Syria and Lebanon, are all steps in the right direction and signs of a more promising era of Arab-American relations. This is all heartening and encouraging.

2. Even though the American administration has a lot on its mind, in the messy aftermath of the cold war period, it is nonetheless devoting significant attention to the Middle East region. Globally, President Bill Clinton and his foreign policy team of secretaries and aides are keeping a close eye on a number of crucial and potentially threatening and dangerous events and developments: tension in the Korean Peninsula, the mounting conflict in Yemen, the impotent Bosnian initiatives, headaches coming from Haiti and some Latin-American countries, the shaky stability of former Soviet republics, the anxious relationship with Japan and China and occasional frictions with European countries. Locally, the economy and the president's various bills, projects and "scandals" are both troubling and disruptive.

And yet, the Middle East peace process is a priority on the U.S. political agenda. The administration not only greatly encourages and welcomes visits by Middle Eastern leaders and personalities and lends a listening ear, but it also

dispatches the secretary of state and other envoys to the region consistently on shuttle missions to resuscitate the peace process when it seems to lose consciousness, to explore new ideas the minute they appear in the horizon, to facilitate agreements when the momentum of peace builds up, and to sort out differences which threaten to sabotage progress. This is all reflected clearly, for example, in the PLO-Israeli Cairo agreement, the Syrian-Israeli exchange of views on the Golan and the recent Jordanian-Israeli talks in Washington. Such interest in the region on part of the U.S., despite whatever "motives" or "plans" there may be lurking behind it, is itself an asset.

3. The American approach to the Middle East question seems to be, though not as dramatic and intense as one would have hoped, quite realistic and reasonable. The way I see it, the current U.S. administration's philosophy in tackling the Arab-Israeli conflict seems to rest on the assumption that the parties to the conflict themselves are to play the major part. The U.S. is there as a catalyst, a messenger of goodwill, a host and a go-between. Ideally, one would have opted for a more rigorous, more involved and more heavy-handed approach. After all, who is to press Israel to be a little more reasonable and a little less inflexible and arrogant. But the Clinton administration, unlike Jimmy Carter's, is reluctant to play such a role. Its approach may best be described as the half-way approach; it is neither as detached as in the case of some previous administrations nor as devoted as in Mr. Carter's.

We are willing to understand and accept this philosophy, as long as the peace process does not last forever and eventually lose its pace and effectiveness, assuming the other tracks will soon be in full swing. Yes, since the conflict is between the Arabs and Israelis essentially the Arabs and Israelis have to learn to sit by themselves at the negotiating table and sort out their own differences. Judging from what has happened and is happening on the Palestinian track, such strategy seems to be quite possible, though certainly unnerving, painful, and extremely frustrating for the most part. One can even appreciate the U.S. administration's present approach, especially when one compares it with previous approaches, such as in the Reagan era (1980-1988) when the U.S. was extremely pro-Israeli and extremely lukewarm towards the Arabs generally when it showed almost no interest in the Arab Middle East region (Reaganomics, the Star-wars space programme, and tension with the Soviet Union were way higher on the U.S. agenda), and when there was effectively no approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict (the Reagan plan was pure lip-service).

I am not saying that the American Middle Eastern strategy these days is exactly what we in the Arab Middle East want. No. There are several flaws and gaps in it, from our own perspective. What I am saying, however, is that it does provide a historic opportunity — or half an opportunity, to be exact, for the U.S. administration is extending its hand to us only half-way.

But we in the Arab Middle East have also to extend our hand the rest of the way, and this is what I also wish to emphasise here.

Frankly speaking, I feel we can do a lot more than we are

doing to speed up the peace process and squeeze the best of results out of it. It is true that we do reciprocate and respond whenever an opportunity presents itself to us. It is also true that we are dealing with a very delicate, very sensitive and very complex situation, and that we ought to proceed with utmost care and caution. We want a solution to the Middle East problem which the vast majority accepts and which the future generations bless. We are entrusted with a task which is of vital importance not only to the Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese but also to each and every individual in the Arab nation and the Muslim World. Jerusalem means as much to a Muslim in Indonesia as it does to a Palestinian from Silwan.

But this does not mean that we take all the time in the world and let golden opportunities pass by. Nor should we stay at home comfortably and expect others to come and hand us our rights on a golden platter. I am extremely bothered by many writers, journalists, political scientists and politicians in the Arab World who still cling desperately to the very unhealthy attitude we have inherited since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict and seem to be stuck with: i.e. that all people know that Israel is the aggressor; that it occupied our land by force, that the U.N. has granted us the right to return, that Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories unconditionally, and that the superpowers ought to pressure Israel into immediate return of our land. This is all true. But it is naive to assume that it can happen overnight or that it can be achieved through pure expression of ourselves, through media rhetoric, or through global justice or charity.

We need to get involved, to explore all the venues available, to be more aggressive in asserting ourselves and realising our just demands than we ever have. We have nothing to fear: International law is on our side, the world community (Eastern and Western) is more sympathetic than it has ever been, and history is with us. Nobody can force us to accept anything we do not think fair or just.

More specifically, we ought to do two things. First, we must stay in the peace process keep it alive, negotiate aggressively and press for results. We have rights to attain and Israel must yield us our rights. Otherwise, let Israel quit, not us.

Second, let us simultaneously wean ourselves from passive reliance on the U.S. but keep in constant contact and coordinate closely with the Clinton administration whose attitude towards Middle Eastern peace is essentially well-meaning. The times when Warren Christopher cannot come to the area, we can go to Washington. Peace is an urgent business: Israel, America, and the whole world have as much to gain from it as we do. Through such contact and coordination, we can perhaps succeed in pressing the U.S. to pressure Israel to speed up the process. I view the recent Jordanian-Israeli peace talks in Washington and His Majesty the King's current visit to the U.S. in the context of such healthy and tactful diplomacy.

The present circumstances are quite congenial and benign. However, we cannot guarantee that they will last forever. We need to act a little more assertively and energetically, and we need to initiate not just receive or respond.

North Korean summit offer derails sanctions

By Paul Shin
The Associated Press

SEOUL — By offering to hold summit talks with rival South Korea, North Korean President Kim Il Sung has raised hopes for an easing of the crisis over his country's nuclear programme.

But some South Koreans worry that Mr. Kim's offer was made to derail a U.S. campaign for U.N. sanctions against the North, and questions whether the summit will ever take place.

Mr. Kim made the offer to meet with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam during six days of mediation last week by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who visited both Koreas to try to ease mounting nuclear tensions.

Mr. Carter spoke with President Bill Clinton by telephone on Sunday to brief him on his trip. Mr. Carter said afterwards in a television interview that he believed the crisis was over and saw no reasons to proceed with sanctions.

"The Carter visit gives North Korea time to get out of a sanctions situation," Ahn Byung-Joon, a political science professor at Yonsei University, said in the newspaper Chosun Ilbo. "In that sense, it could prolong the nuclear dispute rather than resolve it."

A request by the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect two key North Korean nuclear sites more than a year ago prompted Pyongyang to threaten to withdraw from a nuclear non-proliferation agreement, triggering the current crisis. North Korea insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes; other nations want outside inspections of its facilities to make sure.

U.S. efforts to seek a consensus on sanctions in the U.N. Security Council had just gotten underway when the summit was announced. Mr. Clinton has said those efforts would not stop, but in the mean-

time the summit must be arranged. Previous summit proposals have never materialised.

North Korea insists the crisis can only be settled in talks between it and the United States, which it sees as the power behind the South Korean government. It also wants to open formal diplomatic relations with Washington.

"Summit talks, even if held, cannot be expected to resolve the nuclear dispute, because basically the North Koreans want to discuss the matter only with the United States," says Paek Jin-Hyon, a researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, a government think-tank.

The summit would be the first between the leaders of the rival Koreas since the peninsula was divided into the Communist North and capitalist South in 1945.

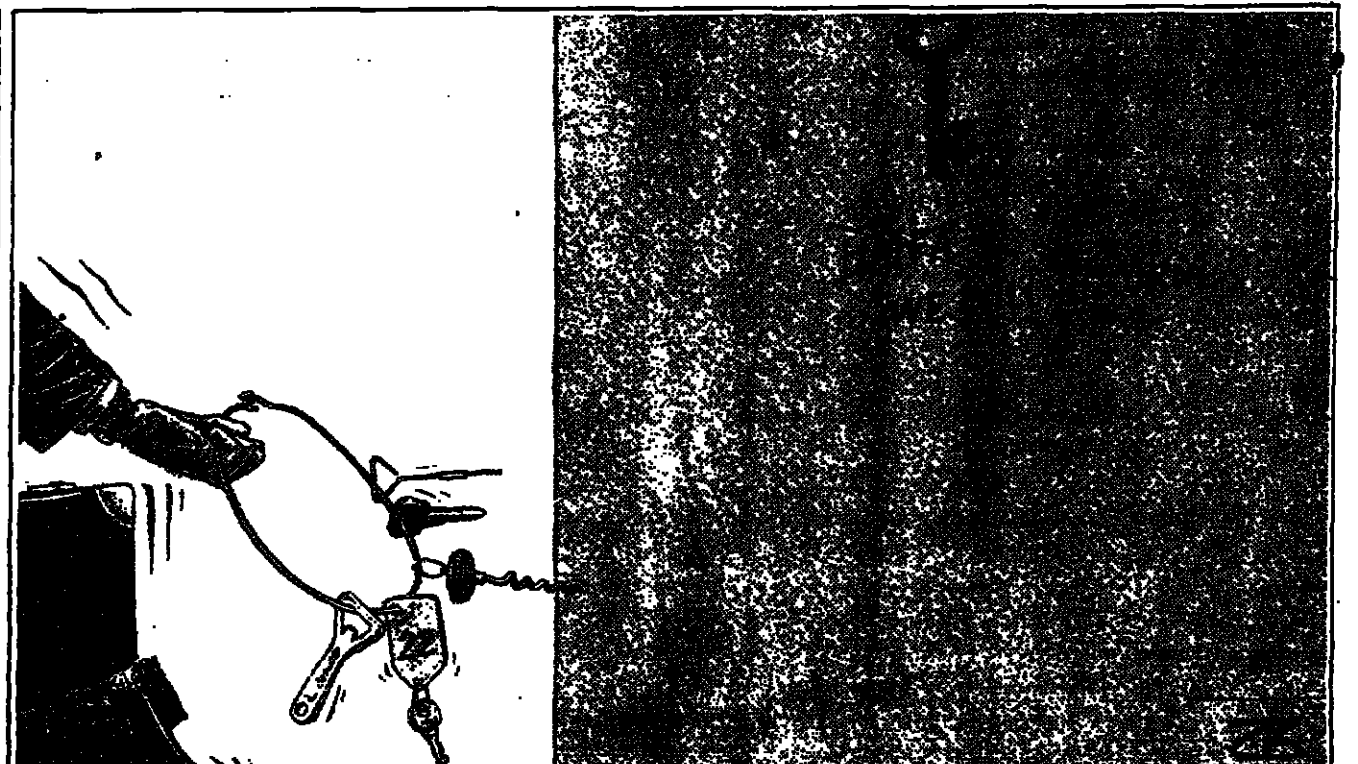
South Korean President Kim Young-Sam quickly accepted the proposal. His government has felt excluded by past bilateral U.S.-North Korean talks.

In his meetings with Mr. Carter, Mr. Kim Il Sung also offered to freeze his nuclear programme if the United States agrees to hold a third round of high-level talks on resolving the nuclear dispute and improving ties.

Washington held two rounds of talks with North Korea last year, but further talks were cancelled because of the North's refusal to allow unrestricted nuclear inspections.

Mr. Kim Il Sung also promised not to expell U.N. inspectors now in North Korea and keep surveillance cameras installed at its nuclear facilities, Mr. Carter said.

But Mr. Kim Yong San, a secretary of North Korea's Ruling Workers' Party, told a visiting Japanese lawmaker that U.N. inspectors would not be allowed to see two key suspected nuclear sites that North Korea has not publicly declared.



Clinton foreign policy team suspect as he faces greatest challenge

By Nick Ludington
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Bill Clinton is facing his first international crisis clearly affecting American strategic interests while his foreign policy team is under continuing criticism for indecision and confusion.

The dispute over North Korea's nuclear programme involves a threat to 37,000 American troops in South Korea, the spectre of North Korean nuclear sales, and the security of two close allies — South Korea and Japan.

In the Bosnian conflict, the United States has no troops on the ground. The main argument for U.S. involvement is diplomatic: That U.S. leadership in Europe is at stake and European support for U.S. goals in other crises might be curtailed.

And Haiti is essentially a domestic problem, with the threat of an influx of refugees and their treatment causing more concern than Mr. Clinton's failure to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

Only the Korean issue raises immediate strategic concerns. And it comes amid what the New York Times de-

scribed in an editorial as "gathering alarm over the administration's foreign policy performance."

The main U.S. objective is to get North Korea to accept full and regular inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that nuclear material is not diverted to build weapons.

North Korea's stated goal is to engage Washington in talks leading to full U.S. diplomatic recognition and help in modernising its economy.

Richard Haass, an expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, described Mr. Clinton's dilemma if diplomatic efforts fail to persuade Kim Il Sung to allow international nuclear controls.

Letting North Korea develop nuclear weapons "would set a terrible precedent for non-proliferation efforts. North Korea could provide nuclear help to other rogue states such as Libya, Iran and Iraq."

But an American strike to destroy verified North Korean nuclear weapons production could lead to war, "perhaps North Korean nuclear explosions in the South — a war that would cost tens of thousands of American and

South Korean lives," Mr. Haass said.

He suggested in a New York Times article that war would be less likely if U.S. forces in Korea are reinforced, and North Korea is told that any war would be carried on until Korea was unified under southern leadership.

Brent Scowcroft, national security advisor to presidents Ford and Bush, also advocated a stick approach. He suggested we tell the North Koreans they must permit unfettered inspection of nuclear materials or the United States will destroy their nuclear weapons capacity.

"We should ensure that both our actions and our words make clear to Pyongyang that we will not be intimidated by threats and will not be paralysed by the possibility of war," he wrote in the Washington Post.

Donald Gregg, a former CIA official and ambassador to South Korea, was for holding out the carrot.

Mr. Gregg was hopeful that if Mr. Clinton addressed broader issues of economic aid and trade with the North Koreans, the crisis can be defused.

"Bill Clinton is too smart a man not to figure out that he must talk to the North

Koreans as well as confronting them," Mr. Gregg wrote in the Post.

He quoted an unnamed South Korean general as saying that "the North Koreans think you are trying to strangle them. They want better relations with you."

But South Korea's Defence Minister, Rhee Bong-Tae, said he believed the North was not simply using fears over its nuclear intentions to win concessions.

"North Korea's nuclear weapons development is not for diplomatic bargaining," said Mr. Rhee. "It appears to be aiming to become a nuclear nation."

For Mr. Clinton, a successful outcome of the confining Korean crisis will dispel foreign policy criticism.

Already the president has reached with a minor mid-level shakeup which will bring Richard Holbrooke, U.S. ambassador to Germany, to Washington to head up the state department's European operations and move Alexander Vershbow, a highly regarded diplomat, to head European desk at the National Security Council.

But if things go badly with North Korea, it will increase the pressure for changes at a much higher level.

Dollar sinks below 100 yen for first time in post-war history

Flinch
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Weekender

June 23, 1994

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Published Every Thursday

Jordan's breakdancers could be the nucleus of a modern theatre

By Mohammad Mashariqah

Ziyad Kheir Abbadi, 23, a worker in an iron cast plant who lives in Jofeh district of Amman, was among a group of dancers interviewed this week in order to throw some light on their artistic and social life.

Question: Where did you learn the breakdance?

Answer: On the streets. I have learnt some of the movements from television shows but when some of my neighbours, who have just returned from Kuwait, saw me dance, they brought me some new breakdance songs and music and we all started training on the pavements of the streets and on the roofs and in the alleys.

Indeed we have become stars of Jabal Jofeh (a district in east Amman) and we are often called to breakdance at friends' parties and people are amazed by our fast movements and skill.

But after each show people mistreat us and some of the audience accuse us of being effeminate in nature and report us to our parents who take away our special fancy dresses in which we dance and the tapes.

Q: Where did you get these costumes for the dance?

A: From the old clothes souq (market) downtown. But our attire looks far better than the rich Shmeisani youths who buy their wear from Europe.

Q: Is there any link between the breakdancers of Jabal Jofeh and those of Shmeisani?

A: We always visit the youths of Shmeisani (one of Amman's western fashionable districts) and we exchange expertise with them.



Two Jofeh's breakdancers in action

Q: Do they ever visit Jofeh?

A: Never. Because if they come in their fancy cars and outfits they would create a problem for the Jofeh people who could stone them.

Q: Who causes problems for you and your friends?

A: Residents and the police. Because they claim dancing is prohibited in the streets. But in Shmeisani it is a different matter because there dancers are not mistreated or harassed or molested.

However we feel that we perform better than the Shmeisani dancers because we always bring in new movements. But it must be stressed that not only are they permitted to dance on the streets but they also are financially capable of buying the outfits and the tapes they like.

In contrast most of Jofeh people have no videos or cassette recorders.

Q: Do you ever read books and newspapers?

A: Frankly no.

Q: Do you listen to radio programmes?

A: Only the foreign programme because it is of benefit for us.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

We enjoy listening to new kinds of music or songs.

Q: Do you know the name of the prime minister of Jordan or the minister of culture?

A: I do not know because I never listen to news.

Q: Why do you put on dark glasses, do you imitate famous American singers?

A: No, I put on the glasses because I suffer from a problem in my left eye resulting from an accident at work and I do not have sufficient money to pay the cost of an operation that could restore my sight.

Another breakdancer was 20-year-old Mahmoud Fataftah, a house painter who also lives in Jofeh.

Q: Why did you choose this kind of dancing?

A: I really don't know. Perhaps because I like sports and exercises. I practice breakdancing four hours a day and it costs me nothing. I like to be distinguished and to show off my skills to others and draw young girls attention. I am overwhelmed with joy when groups of youth surround me as I dance in our district and when the girls watch me from their windows to the tunes of the rather boisterous type of breakdance music.

Q: What do your parents and acquaintances say about this?

A: My parents are totally against my dancing. My father says that dancing is for women or practiced by disorderly youths while my mother says: "What would I tell people about my son's job or hobby. Shall I say

that he is a dancer."

Shopkeepers often kick us out of their stores and the local police consider us a problem for the district in view of our unusual outfits.

Q: Which community welcomes your acts?

A: People ask us to dance at parties in Shmeisani or Abdoun districts whenever we visit our friends there, where we can freely dance on the pavements.

Once we have danced in Mameh village in the southern Tafleh district where the local residents are simple people who welcomed us to dance in their weddings, considering the breakdance as a kind of physical training and very useful for the body.

But we get most of our support and encouragement from the other youths of our district in Jofeh, who have a great desire to learn the movements despite their parents' strong opposition.

Twenty-two-year-old Ahmad Bakri, who was born in Jofeh where he also lives, says: "Since we live in a democratic country I demand that I be given the freedom to dance in public places, gardens and streets.

We do not harm anybody with our hobby nor do we offend public taste. I believe that Jordan is the only country that prohibits dancing in public places. I believe that the media, particularly television, is responsible for the public's lack of knowledge about the breakdance which, in my view, is one of the creative arts like the ballet.

It is because the public is misinformed about this art that many people consider us to be lunatics. This attitude has cost me my fiancée because her parents turned against me and my dancing despite the fact that I am quite eligible for marriage.

We are not drunks or drug addicts and we do not smoke or drink alcohol. Indeed our breakdance is a sublime art which enables us to better control our body and our desires and our emotions. Breakdance made it difficult for us to be provoked and helped us to steer clearly of any quarrels with other people.

In this context, I would like to put forth the following remarks:

1— These are samples of a group of young people in our midst who are being overlooked and who themselves are not concerned with the surrounding community's problems. They are free of any thought about politics, development or pluralism and democracy which they consider as an umbrella for them to act at will.

For this reason, they took to the streets and the pavements where they hope to establish an identity for themselves because the slow sentimental songs and music no more appeal to them and do not help them win popularity as they lack real creativity.



One of Jabal Jofeh's 'stars' dances in an Amman park

2 — The fact that the breakdancer's live in poor districts as well as rich districts indicates that this art is no more confined to the wealthy. I suggest that this phenomenon be well studied by the local community in the course of helping to meet the demands of the youth to count for something in society.

According to Salma Al Khalidi, a social worker employed by the Ministry of Education in the field of special education, the past four years have witnessed changes in social habits in Jordan and these changes could well cause an imbalance within the framework of the Jordanian society. She cites foreign television telecasts as one source of influencing the Jordanian society on the one hand and habits brought back to Jordan by the returning expatriates from the Gulf as another.

3 — We need to reexamine this breakdance phenomenon and I suggest that our theatres absorb this type of art which is expressed through sheer physical movements reflecting high-level physical fitness.

Modern theatre depends on the language of the body more than the verbal dialogue and indeed these dancers could well constitute the nucleus of a modern theatre in Jordan once they have gained reasonable sponsorship and support.

Environment as seen by poets

Poetry For The Earth

Edited by Sara Dunn and Alan Scholefield
Published by Fawcett Columbine

Poetry For The Earth is a book about natural environment seen from the eyes of poetry not of science.

"Looking at a poetic landscape each so individual, described from varying cultural stances by both women and men is one route towards some understanding of the differing psychologies of environmentalism", as editor Sara Dunn puts it. Dunn and co-editor Alan Scholefield took the hard path of selecting, collecting and compiling poems from the four corners of the Earth; from ancient times to the present.

Though environment had been one of the major concerns of man it has, in recent years, attained greater significance especially from the scientific point of view because of the real dangers involved which no doubt affect and shall continue to affect life on this

planet in the future if not in the very near future. Extensive research was carried out and conferences and symposiums have been held where solutions were proposed and decisions for preserving Earth's environment were taken, yet these were rigid scientific discussions — meant for purely scientific circles — which didn't have a direct influence on the broad public.

"One of our personal aims in putting together this anthology is to find some comfort in a subject which has become, at times, unbearably bleak," Dunn writes in her introduction of the book. "The doom-laden prognostications which, though hardly new, have achieved such currency in the late 1980s and 1990s have a numbing effect and often seem counter-productive inducing a sort of environmental compassion — fatigue."

The idea of bringing nature in its glamour to the general public's attention specifically at this time is in itself an inventive work since poetry touches the hearts

BOOK REVIEWS

of people everywhere. This had always been like that and most probably shall always be so; and though everyone with eyes is able to see his/her surrounding or natural ambient it takes a poet's eye to grasp the details and unseen interrelations between different aspects of nature and to put that into one comprehensive and beautiful picture for all to see and love. One can see one environment better through verses — hence the role of poetry in stirring peoples' spirits to preserve their environment becomes invaluable and indispensable and hence the importance and value of this book which is unique in its subject and aim. The editors of Poetry For The Earth took good care of covering a wide and diversified issue through a variety of topics. They followed an interesting classification of the book's contents. They didn't apply the traditional alphabetical order of names of poets or of poems; they rather chose to make a division of subjects according to "emotional" states i.e. psychological stances of poets vis-a-vis nature and natural objects.

There are poems that celebrate nature:

The sky's height stirs me.
The strong wind blows through my mind.
It carries me with it,
So I shake with joy
(Uwamuk)

There are poems that mourn the "loss" of nature:
Even where we mean
To mend her we end her
When we hew or delve
(Hopkins)

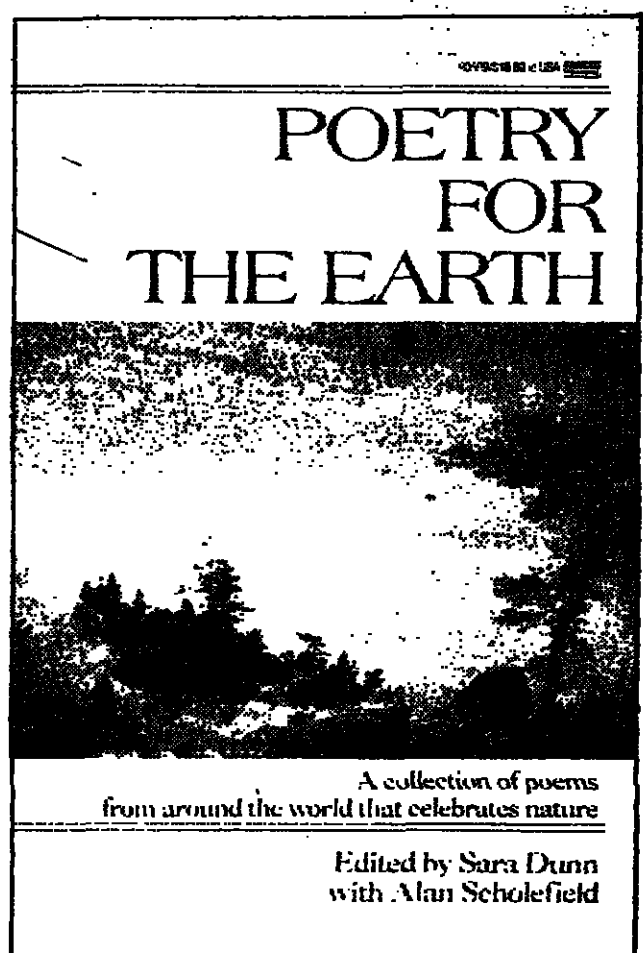
One can trace common human experiences with nature in different eras and among different people. This is clearly seen in ancient poems as well as in medieval ones, during the renaissance and in contemporary writing. Love for nature, yearning for unspoiled landscape and resentment for damage done to environment are subjects that had been cherished by poets of the past and those of modern times.

Listen to the Roman poet, Virgil's Pastorall:
Behold! You bordering fence of sallow-trees
Is fraught with flowers; the flowers are fraught with bees:

The busy bees, with a soft murmuring strain,
Invite to gentle sleep the labouring swain.
Or hear Chaucer's The Parliament Of Fowls
A gardyn I ful of blosmy bowers
Upon a ryver, in a grene mede,
There as swetnesse evermore inow is,
With flours white, blew, yelwe and rede
Then the following verses from Shelley's Epipsychidion (Renaissance Poet)

The blue Aegean girds this chosen home.
With ever-changing sound and light and foam,
Kissing the sifted sands and caverns hoar;
And all the winds wandering along the shore
Undulate with undulating tide

The same is found in modern poems.
Read Margaret Walker's My Missipi Spring
My heart warms under snow;
Flowers with forthright,
Japonica bloom, flowering quince,
Bridal wreath, blood root and violet;
Yellow running vine



Interestingly the book includes works of three famous Arab poets. The Andalusian poet of the eleventh century Abdullah Ibn Al Simak, whose poem, The Garden, is a fine piece of the sensitivity he expresses towards nature and the Andalusian environment.

The garden of green hillocks
Dresses up for visitors
In the most beautiful colours
As if a young woman's dowry
Were spread out
Glittering with gold necklaces
Ahmad Abdul Mu'ti Hijazi a contemporary from Egypt laments the days of innocence:

The picture is still clear
But the child who drew it
Has been crushed by the passages of days
The Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, better known for his celebration and exaltment of Palestine, is the third Arab poet translated in this collection. Although much more impressive in its original, the following lines still portray the depth of his attachment to nature.

We are entitled to love the end of this autumn and ask
Is there room for another autumn in the field to rest
our bodies like coal?
An autumn lowering its leaves like gold. I wish we
were fig leaves.

I wish we were an abandoned plant
To witness the change of seasons. I wish we didn't say
goodbye.

To the south of the eye so as to ask what
Our fathers had asked when they flew on the tip of
the spear.

Muhammad Daoud Tahboub

Making History Come Alive

Struggle And Survival In The Modern Middle East

Edited by Edmund Burke, III
Illustrated. 400 pages. \$16. University Of California Press: 1993.

Struggle And Survival In The Modern Middle East is history in a special form — that of social biography. The 25 separate essays included in the book sketch the lives of as many individuals in over a dozen Middle East countries. The focus is not so much on their thoughts or psychological makeup, as on how they coped with the particular socioeconomic, cultural and political environment into which they were thrown by life itself.

The biographical approach is intended to bridge the gap between social theory and empirical research. The book does not elaborate much on the usual headlines of Middle East history — imperialism, nationalism and modernisation — which editor Edmund Burke sees as abstractions. Instead, it sets out to chronicle "how events were actually experienced by most people" (page IX).

The great achievement of this book lies in making history come alive. Many of the narratives can be read with the ease and enjoyment of a good novel. But whether the text truly reflects how most people experienced events is another question altogether, for a biographical approach is by nature selective. It is left to the reader to judge whether the individuals chosen as subjects of the essays are truly representative of the majority. In some cases, they most probably are; in others, this is a dubious claim.

Diversity is the name of the game in Struggle And Survival In The Modern Middle East. The area is broadly defined, encompassing Iran and Afghanistan, as well as the Arab countries of the Mashreq and Maghreb. The timeframe stretches back to the mid-19th century, when the persons described in Precolonial Lives — the first section of the book — were born. It carries us up to the present, for some of those interviewed are still living.

We get a closer look at historical figures such as Ramadan Al Suwayhli, who took part in Libya's resistance to Italian colonialism — a cause for which over one million Libyans died. We are also introduced to personalities we had never known to exist, such as Shemsigul, a Circassian woman sold as a slave on the Istanbul market in Ottoman times and brought to Cairo when she was still a teenager. Remarkably enough, she brought a legal case against her abusive master — and she won!

The subjects of the essays come from urban as well as rural backgrounds; many are members of ethnic, tribal or religious minorities, manifesting the diversified panorama of Middle East cultural demography. Their walks of life range from sheikh, peasant and professional to truck driver and worker.

The most skillfully rendered social biography in the book is Kenneth Brown's Mohammad Ameer: A Tunisian Comrade. Ameer himself is a fascinating personality who was by turns nationalist, communist and homespun philosopher. Brown has added a wealth of background material so that Mohammad's life tells the story of Tunisians living under French colonialism, and how they responded to the political movements that rose up in the quest for independence.

One of several sheikhs dealt with in this book is Izzeddin Al Qassam. Very little has previously been published in English or even known about Qassam, outside of Palestinian and Arab circles. Yet it was he who built up the secret armed groups that presaged the 1936 revolt against British colonialism and Zionist encroachment in Mandate Palestine. Though Qassam was killed in a premature battle with a British patrol, his example inspired ordinary Palestinians, especially peasants, to join in the revolt which lasted until 1939.

It is no wonder that Qassam finds a niche in this book which is dedicated to telling the story of the "peoples without history," i.e., the ordinary men and women whose stories have remained untold in classical history books.

Sally Bland

The more the merrier

Jean-Claude Elias

Business is a healthy thing. It contributes to the quality of the products and services. The obvious winner of such a business is the consumer.

Private companies selling personal and related products in Jordan have sprung up from a mere 10 in 1980. How is the computer market?

The population is estimated at 3.5 million. The part of this population that is in the business is only about 0.5 million. There is one PC company (or shop) for every 100 people.

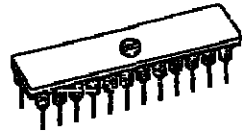
Though the comparison is not perfect, it is worth noting that there are only 100 computer companies in the Kingdom.

Computer distributors do not provide technical service and assistance. They only offer a limited guarantee on the hardware. Companies that do provide service, at both hardware and software levels, are few and far between.

Very sophisticated machine the PC is a very well placed. It is the only Arab country (apart from Bahrain) that has developed software products that have become international standards.

If there are any negative side effects of the presence of a large number of PC distributors in Jordan, they must be very minor. In the long run, the situation can only develop as a very positive aspect of the country's progress.

chip talk



options and accessories in the Jordanian market. Tough competition is keeping prices very low and vendors must rely on volume sales to make an acceptable profit.

The Jordan Computer Society accepts both companies and individuals as members. They have to fulfill strict conditions in order to be accepted. Only one company in five has so far been accepted. The society was founded to improve communications at all levels: vendors-vendors, vendors-users, vendors-government and others.

If the number of PC companies per capita is an indicator of progress and prosperity, then Jordan is very well placed. It is the only Arab country (apart from Bahrain) that has developed software products that have become international standards.

If there are any negative side effects of the presence of a large number of PC distributors in Jordan, they must be very minor. In the long run, the situation can only develop as a very positive aspect of the country's progress.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

GOOD MORNING

Inspiring Advice

are suffering cannot.

people who lack you stand that sometimes telling the reason of hostility.

like you feel inferior without your

do when you're bored:

flowers come and go.

ing well.

use carefully.

that people who are bored are

re invariably more exciting than

if the real thing comes remotely

ed for you. Sometimes.

but is life itself.

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Classroom procedures and playing favourites

By E. Yaghi

Teaching is not only a science, it is also an art, and it involves more than just giving information. How to teach is almost as important as what to teach and the teacher, whether professor or instructor at a lower stage of learning, must meet the challenges presented by students, texts and classrooms. Classrooms must constitute a setting for learning and instructors must, first of all, have priorities and objectives for each lesson as well as come prepared. Traditional classroom procedure is for the teacher to ask questions to which he already knows the answers for pupils then to respond without creating new ideas. But teachers should not be the sole authority of knowledge nor should the student be unable to express his opinions or formulate creative and decisive ideas. If the teacher finds that an activity he has chosen does not suit or interest his class, then he should abandon it and move onward to something else. Once the class is over, the teacher should then ask himself if he achieved the objectives he intended and whether he covered the material he wanted.

Discipline, often a problem, can cause concern to the teaching staff. It is essential to a good learning environment as lack of order leads to confusion, hampers instruction and proves distracting. Thus, the teacher should arrange the seating of his class either in a semi-circle if smaller, or at least insist that the students are dispersed in the front rows, leaving the back benches empty unless the number of pupils happens to be greater. Though discipline is essential, the atmosphere in a classroom must be one that is conducive to learning and the instructor must maintain firmness, yet create a climate where friendliness and democracy prevail. Teachers should not do more than 25 per cent of the talking in class and the remaining 75 per cent should be done by pupils so that they have an opportunity to express themselves. Surprisingly, the student does not only learn from the teacher, but much is gained from fellow students and if the instructor gives himself half a chance, he will find that he too, has much to learn from his students. On this voyage of discovery, with the teacher more a guide than a commander, he will find that each student, especially the inquisitive young, have an inherent capacity to be brilliant in their own way. No teacher should be a dictator and stand in front of the class like the only one who knows anything about not only academic subjects but life in general. And most important, attention should be maintained throughout the lesson and pupils kept on their toes by constant stimulation and incentives to arouse interest. There is nothing more boring than a captain who talks 99 per cent of the allotted time, who allows no room for creative questions and whose word is law or part of the Ten Commandments. There must be discussions, debates, panel talks and

group-oriented workshops which promote coordinated activities. It is important for the teacher to be familiar with the attitudes and abilities of each student in order to organise teams into homogeneous groups.

Always, maximum participation should be sought and in any general discussion, every pupil should feel free to engage in it. Also, pupils should feel that taking part in classroom discussions is an important part of the day's lesson and any discussion should not be limited to a few students who may tend to dominate discourse. Some pupils try to gain the attention and praise of their instructors by holding the floor and digressing the topic concerned into a two-way dialogue in which the teacher is transfixed and other students become totally peeved and/or bored with the whole class.

This leads us to the notorious and unforgivable crime of favoritism. Some instructors form the obnoxious habit of playing favourites on the basis of ethnic, religious, or social grounds. Some pupils are always teacher's pet because their father or mother teaches in the same department and holds a senior position and therefore the child demands grades far higher than he/she deserves. I have often overheard such a pupil boast: "Oh, I didn't study a bit and I'm so afraid to take the exam!" Where in actuality, a high mark is encircled because of the status of their father or mother. This is detrimental to the rest of the class, especially to those who work hard for grades but receive lower marks than the teacher's pet. Teacher's pet can be also based on ethnic or tribal relations where they are sometimes given better marks to keep up the prestige of the family name. Outsiders are looked down upon and never given a chance to compete for higher marks. Finally, the diplomatic student weaves his or her way into the instructor's good humour and is rewarded by higher marks. This sometimes happens with female students who flatter their professors or simply bat their beautiful eyes in coy ways and thus gain ten immediate points.

But playing favourites is bad for both teachers and students. For the student who gets marks because of either ethnic or class status or lip service, in the end he or she will hold a diploma that is meaningless. And as for the instructor, how terrible to prejudice any student's performance on a biased attitude. Favoritism, wherever it is practiced, is harmful to the diligent and earnest student or even employee because instead of initiative and hard work false pretenses are rewarded. Often, in many institutions, creativity, curiosity and self-initiative are destroyed in favour of flattery, social status, or tribal or family name. Each person's value must be determined not by social, ethnic or tribal prejudices but by his/her output, attitude, effort and ability. Playing favourites is unfair and a flagrant violation of the ethics of teaching.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 23

8:30 Da Beat's On

9:15 Bony

Bony's case is that of a dead surfer found washed up on the beach. His suspicious centre around another surfer and a friend — a pretty young woman.

10:00 News In English

10:15 Murder She Wrote
Dead Letter

A store owner dies in a fire a day after he receives a threatening letter.

Friday, June 24

8:00 Sixty Minutes

10:00 News In English

10:15 Emilie

Emilie is an ambitious young girl whose progressive ideas and beliefs stand contrary to her father's old-fashioned ways. Her struggle to win his acceptance and support starts in a small school, where she teaches the young.

Saturday, June 25

7:25 World Cup Soccer Match
Saudi Arabia Vs. Morocco

9:20 Daily World Cup Summary

10:00 News In English

10:15 Reasonable Doubts
Making Dirt Stick

Even after delaying the case for three long years, Tess awaits the findings of the two main witnesses in a robbery and a murder case.

Sunday, June 26

7:25 World Cup Soccer Match
Bulgaria Vs. Greece

9:30 You Bet Your Life

10:00 News In English

10:15 House Of Eliott

Agnes betrays the Eliott sisters' trust by divulging secrets to a newspaper man... While Evie and

Alexander get closer.

11:05 World Cup Soccer Match

Switzerland Vs. Colombia

Monday, June 27

8:30 The Nanny

The Nanny-In-Law

Nanny finds herself face to face with Mr. Sheffield's old nanny.

9:10 Documentary — The Climate Change

10:00 News In English

10:15 G.P.

Loose Ends

William, the clinic's director, is surprised by his ex-wife's visit. He finds out about the bad news regarding their son-in-law.

11:05 World Cup Soccer Match
Bolivia Vs. Spain

Tuesday, June 28

7:25 World Cup Soccer Match
Italy Vs. Mexico

9:20 Daily World Cup Summary

10:00 News In English

10:15 The Cape Rebel

11:05 World Cup Soccer Match
Brazil Vs. Sweden

Wednesday, June 29

7:25 World Cup Soccer Match
Morocco Vs. Netherlands

9:20 Daily World Cup Summary

10:00 News In English

10:15 Poldark

Ross has always been the man who harbours the society's victims, but now he himself gets involved with some illegal deals.

11:05 World Cup Soccer Match

Ireland Vs. Norway

هكذا في الفصل

Artists, patrons differ on impact of Iraqi painters

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — It does not take an expert observer of local life to perceive that over the recent years following the Gulf war, Iraqi artists have begun to dominate the fine arts scene in Jordan. A quick once-over of brochures and exhibitions at the Kingdom's art galleries will readily confirm gallery owners' estimates that Iraqi artists represent over half of those exhibiting works these days at various locations in Jordan.

One gallery owner who preferred anonymity named, "Jordanian artists are becoming a minority in their own country... as Iraqi artists continue to come in hundreds."

But as Iraqi artists continue to flock to Jordan to exhibit or stay on permanently — apparently seeking a huge sum of money from a wave of poverty which has engulfed the Iraqi community in their homeland due to United Nations economic sanctions — is their exodus to Jordan blessing or a curse for Jordan's native artists? Both artists and gallery patrons appear to be divided on the answer to that question.

The gallery owner who would not be named said that the Iraqis "have spoiled the market for Jordanian artists."

Initially, said the owner, members of Jordan's art community had strongly sympathised with their Iraqi counterparts due to the financial hardships and sufferings they faced in Iraq. "But now, many Jordanian artists cannot stand to hear of Iraqi artists anymore."

Jordanian artist Suha Shoman sharply disagreed. "We should not have the reaction that other artists are intruders stealing our livelihood," she said. "This is looking at the problem with short-term vision."

"The school of art in Iraq is one of the oldest in the Arab World, while we in Jordan are a young artistic community," she said. "We have much to learn from them and others."

Artistic achievement and advancement can only be nourished by interchange and dialogue between different countries and cultures, Ms. Shoman maintained. Just as the French, who boast one of the world's finest artistic communities, had benefitted through exchange with Spanish artists such as Picasso, Dali and Miro, who came to France after World War II, and as the Iraqis and the Egyptians had learned from European art teachers, she said, now in turn "the Iraqis have opened new horizons for us, and if a Jordanian artist is good he shouldn't worry. It is a challenge. The important thing is the quality of the art."

The Iraqi artists who came to Jordan include some of the most prominent in Iraq, said Samia Zaru, another Jordanian artist. "They have exposed us to contemporary directions, and really activated the art community here."

In concluding her defence of the Iraqi artists, Ms. Shoman stated her belief that "art knows no boundaries, and to judge an artist by his nationality is the opposite of what is art."

However, the gallery owner said the Iraqi artists are

hurting Jordanian artists by engaging in "cut-rate selling." Many of them, desperate for hard currency, are resorting to selling their works in Jordan at 10 to 20 per cent of their real value, or less, the owner said.

"They aren't in their own country, so they don't have to worry about their reputation as the Jordanian artists do."

"And if you can buy a nice painting for only JD 10 to JD 20, why go to a Jordanian artist and buy a work of similar quality for JD100 or more?"

Another gallery director who would also not be named said that he bore the Iraqi artists no ill will and only felt pity for their situation.

"Many were among the most famous of their time in Iraq before the war ruined things for them," the director said. "But now they are forced to come here and sell their works for little or nothing simply to feed themselves."

He concluded by saying that he was distressed that "something as innocent as art must fall prey to politics."

Iraqi artists are definitely not flocking to Amman because there are large profits to be had here, said Farouq Lambaz, Jordanian artist and director of the Alia Art Gallery. Rather, he said, Jordan is the only refuge open to them due to the current economic and political circumstances as the Iraqi dinar continues to crumble and no other Arab country besides Jordan is open to them.

"This rush of Iraqi artists — I don't think it is

because Jordan has high sales," Mr. Lambaz said. "It is a limited market, and no gallery is making a profit here."

Nuha Batchone, owner of the Gallery for Arts and Antiquities, agreed. Despite the opening of a large number of new galleries in Jordan over the last few years, she said, "the art market here is not profitable at all, and it is more difficult than ever before. As a gallery owner, it is a real challenge just to make both ends meet."

As for how to improve constricting circumstances for native Jordanian artists, one gallery director discounted blaming the Iraqi artists and focused the responsibility on the Jordanian public itself.

Jordanian artists do not meet enough care and respect from their own public, he said, "although the quality of work of many Jordanian artists can be compared to international standards."

"Collectors here sometimes prefer the works of any foreign artist to Jordanians, although the public in most other countries would choose to buy their own artists' work before those of others."

Mr. Lambaz felt that just as artists in Europe and the United States receive badly needed aid and support programmes from the public sector of their countries, "someone in the Ministry of Culture must develop programmes for supporting the arts here."

Another gallery owner asked: "What can Jordanian artists do when their own community doesn't support them?"

Mother Russia beckons for 70-year-old maestro

By Stephane Bentura
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — World-renowned cellist and outspoken defender of democracy Mstislav Rostropovich is leaving Washington's biggest orchestra after a farewell concert, possibly to return to his much-changed homeland.

"After 70 years, you see how I act. If I turn, I will go to St. Petersburg, my heart is there," the 67-year-old Russian musician said in an interview in his office at the Kennedy Arts Center, where he conducts the National Symphony Orchestra.

On June 17, the orchestra which welcomed him years ago will host a farewell concert to Rostropovich, who played a major role in making the Washington Symphony one of the best in the United States.

"When they deprived me of my homeland, I ended someplace I could call my own, a place that I would make the centre of my life," said Mr. Rostropovich, who taught in a Moscow conservatory until October 1974 when he is expelled and stripped



Mstislav Rostropovich

of his Soviet citizenship for defending dissident writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

Barred from returning to Moscow, Mr. Rostropovich and his wife soprano Galina Vishnevskaya agreed to come to Washington where he would direct the National Symphony.

"It was very important to feel at home and the more than 100 people in the orchestra became a huge family," he said.

He says it was the orchestra's poor condition that attracted him.

"One lives by creating things, it is very important," he said. "The orchestra has become one of the best in the United

States and has allowed me to understand America and to grow not only as a musician but also as a resident of this country."

Unlike Mr. Solzhenitsyn — to whom he is related — who tried to avoid becoming an American during his 18 years in exile in Vermont, Mr. Rostropovich speaks English perfectly and has scheduled concerts here as late as September 1997.

He has promised concerts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Boston and in France and Italy for next season.

Mr. Rostropovich hailed Mr. Solzhenitsyn's return to Russia, where he wrote his masterpieces, including *The Gulag*

Archipelago. "It is one of the happiest events of my life," he said.

The two men spent time together while living in the United States, with Mr. Rostropovich stopping by Mr. Solzhenitsyn's Vermont refuge between concerts for long talks about their homeland.

But if he is pleased that the 75-year-old writer returned home, Mr. Rostropovich said that he is more useful in the West from where he has made various trips into Russia in 1991 and 1993 to back a tottering democracy.

His foundation for Russian children has already collected \$4 million in donations in the form of

medicines and medical equipment. Last week, he gave two concerts in St. Petersburg to raise money to build 100 homes for Russian troops being withdrawn from the Baltics.

"They live in terrible conditions. These are the officers who won the war against fascism. I am in their debt," he said.

One thing he is worried about is the Russian mafia, which Mr. Rostropovich said is gaining strength.

"It's a question of time. The mafia is getting stronger and stronger, and it must be stopped now," he said.

Lively and warm, the Moscow-bred musician is in perfect health. But, he says, "I want to do only things that are useful to me because I don't know how many years God will give me."

"My country is always there and remains there," said Mr. Rostropovich, who has bought a country home and apartment in Moscow and is in the process of buying a home in St. Petersburg. And while his two daughters married an Italian and a Frenchman, their "five children have Russian names," he says slyly.

Woodstock at 25 — profit over peace

By Jacques Guillon
Agence France Presse

NEW YORK — Some 30 groups and musicians will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Woodstock this August, but this time around a drug-free \$30-million production will replace the spontaneous three days of peace and love in 1969.

Unlike the first celebration — considered the high-water mark of the hippie movement and rock music — narcotics and alcohol are strictly prohibited from the festival's grounds.

Woodstock drew some 40 groups and musicians ranging from electric guitar innovator Jimi Hendrix to the British rock band The Who.

In 1969, from Aug. 15 to 18, roughly 500,000 people streamed to a rural upstate New York farm. Though promoters had sold 120,000 tickets — at \$18 each for the three days — the gathering built up its own momentum. Hundreds of thousands of people swarmed to Woodstock without tickets.

The concert unfolded in joyous anarchy, with massive traffic jams, loads of hashish, a little LSD, lots of love, food and service shortages, but no violence. Several babies were born during the festival and others were believed conceived during the three days.

For the anniversary concert, scheduled for the weekend of Aug. 13 in Saugerties, 170 kilometres north of New York City, promoters are selling only 250,000 tickets at \$135 each, organiser Michael Lang said.

The price includes a parking place, a camping spot and free shuttle transport.

One thousand security guards will be on duty during the concert. Pay television will broadcast the event at a cost of \$50 for the weekend.

Factories are already cranking out souvenirs commemorating both this concert and the original Woodstock to glean the maximum profit from the show.

Although no list of musicians has been released, Crosby, Stills, and

Nash — one of the groups appearing 25 years ago — will play. Organisers have approached Guns 'N' Roses, Metallica, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, and singer Peter Dinklage.

But the concert is not a sure bet to make money. Entrance costs are too stiff for many people and the festival is scheduled for the same weekend that the Rolling Stones play outside New York City.

What's more, a separate commemorative concert will take place on the same site as the original Woodstock in Bethel, New York.

Arranged by Sid Bernstein, the organiser of the first Beatles concert in the United States, the Bethel Concert has already signed up Woodstock veteran a blues guitarist Richie Havens. The concert is expected to draw some 80,000 people.

Havens has become a strong supporter of this second show, which in spirit seems closer to the original. "What I want to do back has nothing to do with what Michael Lang is putting together now," he said.

2 Korean films to vie in international festivals

Manmubang to join Montreal event; To The Starry Island in Switzerland

By Byun Eun-mi

Seoul — Korean filmmakers were excited by the news that two Korean films have advanced into the main competitions of two international film festivals.

According to the Motion Picture Promotion Corp. of Korea, Um Jong-won's saga about the Korean War *Manmubang* will be entered in the 18th

World Film Festival in Montreal, Canada, which will open Aug. 25 for a 12-day run.

Also, Park Kwang-Soo's *To The Starry Island* will compete for top honours against films from other countries at the Locarno International Film Festival which is due Aug. 4-14 in Switzerland.

Many Korean films have been shown at va-

rious film festivals around the world, but those showings have been mostly on a noncompetitive basis and it is a major achievement for Korean films to advance into main competitions.

The news came following Chang Sun-Woo's winning of the Alfred-Bauer Prize for new perspectives in cinematographic art for his enigmatic Buddhist

film *Hwaomkyung* at the Berlin International Film Festival last February, which was amply celebrated here.

The entry of the two films into the competitions is a sign of the growing interest in Korean films abroad, said Yang Kyu-Shik, an official of the Motion Picture Promotion Corp., the government body promoting Korean

films.

As evidence, he said, "the chief executives of the two film festivals, Serge Losique of the Montreal and Marco Muller of the Locarno, have recently visited Seoul on separate occasions and selected the films themselves."

"The phenomenon is also influenced by the current worldwide trend that Oriental films are gaining more prominence," he added.

In particular, Park Kwang-Soo's entry into Locarno raises expectations here that it might duplicate the triumph that a maverick filmmaker, Bae Yong-Kyun, achieved five years ago. Bae's Buddhist film *Why Bodhi Dharma Went to the East* won the best film award and four special awards at the competition.

Park, the forerunner of the new generation of Korean directors, has a previous association with the film festival. His social satire film *Chil-Su And Man-Su* was honoured with the third place award in the Youth Critics Award at the competition in 1989.

As for the Montreal festival, two Korean actresses, Shin Hye-Soo and Lee Hye-Sook won

the best actress awards in 1988 and 1991 respectively, and young talent Park Chong-Won's *Our Twisted Hero* captured the honour for the best producer in 1992.

Set during the Korean War (1950-53), the two films focus on how the fierce ideological conflict between the right and left wings affected the lives of ordinary Koreans. But, the paths the two films have trodden afterward were entirely different.

Park's *To The Starry Island* was much touted even before the film was made, largely owing to the reputation of the director. After its opening at local theatres last year-end with heavy publicity it won critical acclaim and scored a modest success at the box-office, even though it fell short of early expectations.

The film, however, was totally ignored at the just-ended Korean Grand Bell Film Competition, which prompted a protest by young filmmakers over the judges' favoritism of senior directors.

On the other hand, *Um Jong-Sun's Manmubang* drew little public attention until it won multi-nominations at the Grand Bell Awards. For the senior director who earned his



Yun Chung-Hee plays a woman victimised by ideological conflict during the Korean War in Um Jong-Sun's *Manmubang*. The film will be entered in the main competition at the World Film Festival in Montreal.

reputation with low-budget erotic films, it was the first time that his film has been nominated at the film competition. *Manmubang* refers to a shameless villain in Korean.

At the Grand Bell Film Awards, it won six prizes including the best actress award for Yun Chung-Hee — Korean News Review.



Park Kwang-Soo's *To The Starry Island* will compete at the Locarno International Film Festival.

Want to help them? Think measles shots, not food

By Michelle Faul
The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — When those skeletal waifs trapped in gory wars appear on the television screen, don't think only about food and U.N. peacekeepers. Think about vaccinations. Vitamin A and iodized salt. That is the new and more pragmatic message from the world's leading ambassador for children, UNICEF Executive Director James Grant. It is a lesson the U.N.

Children's Fund has learned from trying to cope with what it calls the world's "loud emergencies," the Bosnians the Rwandas the Angolas, that kill hundreds of children every day. "We need to look at how to balance out the urgencies of the loud emergencies with the much larger dimensions of the silent emergencies," Mr. Grant said. The principal killer of some 34,000 children whose lives are cut short every day is not war or

conflict-induced famine, but simple deficiency: Lack of cheap measles shot or a drink of salt, sugar and water to keep them from dying of diarrhoea. In Africa, where about 10 per cent of the world's population suffers 30 per cent of its child deaths, many people have more children than they otherwise would so they can have backup children when some inevitably die. "My father had 21 children and only nine of us survived," said Boubacari Ganame, a security guard

in Abidjan. "That's why we have to have lots of children, we're obliged to be sure that enough will live to bring in some money for the family and look after you when you're old." Mr. Ganame, 47, has seven children ages 1 to 19. Though none has died, he still hopes for more. "I can't afford insurance or a pension. My children are my pension," he said. Shifting the emphasis on aid — from intervention in a crisis to prevention of health problems — was a main topic of a

meeting of UNICEF Africa directors in early June. "Our post-mortem on Somalia shows 250,000 children died in 1992, but most of them died from measles, not hunger," Mr. Grant told the gathering, noting that half of all preschool Somali children died in 1992-93. The United Nations spent more than \$1.5 billion on military aid and peacekeeping to ensure that \$150 million in relief supplies was delivered, Mr. Grant said. Less than a dollar a child spent earlier on vac-

cinations probably would have saved most of Somalia's child victims. A healthy, vaccinated child caught in a measles epidemic in a refugee camp will survive. Unvaccinated, malnourished children die. "We've learned that we've got to give children the defence mechanism that will allow them to withstand an emergency situation," said Joe Christmas, UNICEF director in Angola. "Just making sure kids have Vitamin A could have saved 25 per cent of those

who died in Angola." Mr. Grant and Mr. Christmas said it was easier for developed nations to respond to dramatic, conflict situations than "silent emergencies" such as the daily need for a balanced diet. "Many developed countries have an over-abundance of food stockpiles. As soon as there is a crisis and you show bloated bodies on TV, it's very easy for North America and Europe to divert their stocks to these countries," Mr. Christmas said. "That's because it's food."

Non-food aid is largely in money, which is much more difficult for them to give. Mr. Christmas said the world should expect more emergencies since the collapse of cold war superpower rivalries that provided aid which stabilised many volatile regions. "More countries are going to fall and we have to prepare ourselves for that, educate our donors against the world's belief that once a country has an emergency, there's going to be famine, so it's food that you send," he said.

By Elaine Ganley
The Associated Press

TUMIS — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has appealed to African leaders to take special steps toward preventing AIDS among children and young people, the most vulnerable group in the chain of infection

African children targeted in new bid to contain AIDS

that spreads the disease. "We are convinced that political commitment is indispensable," WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima said before the Organisation of African Unity's annual summit. Nearly two out of three

Africans who contract the HIV virus leading to AIDS are ages 15-24. About one million African children already have the disease, WHO estimates. By the year 2000, some four million African children will have been

orphaned by it. Mr. Nakajima spoke to back a resolution on "AIDS And The Child In Africa," put on the summit agenda by host Tunisia. It urges action to protect children and women and would be carried out

by member states cooperating with the WHO. The proposal calls the effect of AIDS on children, "one of the greatest challenges in recent history to development in Africa."

The devastation kills the young and makes orphans of others. There is also "an emerging phenomenon" of children abandoned by HIV-positive mothers unable to cope and lacking community support, the re-

solution says. Women are a target group in the campaign, since infected women outnumber infected men and an HIV-positive woman has a 30 per cent chance of passing the virus to her

baby. Not all children are infected through their mothers. The proposal notes a "trend" in several countries, showing young girls infected by men seeking uninfected partners. Street children are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and casual sex.

Top Thai companies in wasteful AIDS discrimination

By Robert Shirel
Reuters

BANGKOK — Some of the top Thai companies in banking, travel and retail sectors, as well as several state enterprises, had mandatory HIV-testing policies. "In Thailand at the moment there are many forms of discrimination (against people with the HIV virus) but the biggest problem is in terms of employment," Mr. Ungpakorn told the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand. Three people infected with HIV told the club of their experiences. "People with the virus have a lot of trouble finding work. When they apply for a job they are tested and then refused. It's the big factories and department stores that do it most," said a young

woman who identified herself by her nickname, Nook. "The government has been very successful with its campaign to scare people about AIDS because everyone who knows I am HIV-positive is really frightened of me," said Nook's husband, who has managed to find a job with a small company which does not require HIV testing. Thailand, where there are between 600,000 and 800,000 people infected with the HIV virus, has drawn up principles requiring that HIV testing be carried out only with the informed consent of the person being tested. There are also broad principles against discrimination on the grounds

of a person's HIV status but there are no laws to enforce those principles, said Mr. Ungpakorn, director of the AIDS action group, Access. "There is a lot of testing going on and its not with the informed consent of the people being tested. People are being forced to be tested... It's the biggest companies that are the most discriminatory in this respect," he said. Hospitals conducting the tests often give the results straight to the companies, he said. "This not only goes against medical ethics, it goes against the principle of confidentiality," he said. Many people with HIV have lost the will to look for work because they

dread the mandatory test, he said. "These practices are causing enormous hardships (and are) denying a large section of Thai society the right to work," she said. Supanya Lamsam, a director of the Thailand Business Coalition on AIDS, said the screening policies adopted by companies — both Thai and foreign — were an instinctive, if irrational, reaction to the AIDS crisis. Testing programmes were very expensive, costing between \$40 and \$80 per test per employee, and would not stop the emergence of HIV in com-

panies, she said. "It does not help, it does not keep HIV out of the work place. Also it is very expensive, and lastly it does just not make business sense to do it," she said. Companies which sacked employees or rejected applicants with HIV were turning away people who might remain productive for a decade or more. "There are a lot of HIV-positive people out there who still can work, who can still be productive, who can still contribute to society and who can still look after their families and themselves," she said. Ms. Supanya, whose organisation aims to help businesses cope with AIDS, added that more companies were becoming aware of the reality of the problem and adopting more constructive approaches. One company which used to have an HIV screening programme but gave it up in favour of a staff education programme is Royal Garden Hotel Resorts Co. Ltd., which employs more than 600 people. "We had a policy to check for HIV but we gave it up. Education is the most important thing," said Royal Garden Human Resources Director Choochart Mahawansu. "If someone has HIV they are physically the same as anyone else, they have the ability to do the same work for maybe five or ten years," he told Reuters. "We educate our staff not to be frightened, that HIV transmission is not easy. If other companies really knew the situation (regarding HIV) they would not be so scared," he said. Mr. Choochart said he knew of several major hotel groups which had abandoned HIV screening policies for staff and applicants.

Something must be done about headaches, say doctors

BRUSSELS (AFP) — About 90 million Europeans are cursed with migraine or tension headaches which cost \$10 billion a year in treatment and time off from work, the European Headache Federation said here. Yet research into headaches is seriously under-funded and is largely ignored in public sector budgets, the federation said at a press conference ahead of a three-day conference in the Belgian city of Liege which ended Friday. Headache sufferers from Liege were invited into the conference to quiz the experts, said one of the organisers, Jean Schoenen, a neurologist at the University of Liege. Dieter Gerber, a professor at the University Clinic of Kiel, said there was a shortage of properly trained physicians and therapists in nearly all European countries. "Poor diagnosis and inadequate or incorrect use of treatment methods are partly responsible for the fact that up to 20 per cent of all headache sufferers who see their physician take too many drugs," he said. Marcia Wilkinson, of the City of London Migraine Clinic said: "Too many drugs are bad for you." She urged the importance of "the right drug in the right form in the right dose at the right time."

Speakers at the conference said the lack of research meant that diagnoses and treatment for headaches varied widely from country to country. Thus, a patient in France might be told it was all right to drink high quality red wine, while in some other countries he might be advised to stick to white wine instead, Dr. Wilkinson said. Doctors at the conference went out of their way to stress that a migraine — a blinding headache four times more prevalent in women than in men — was not a psychosomatic disease which could be treated by psychoanalysis. They said it resulted

from an abnormality of the brain and that attacks could be triggered by a range of factors including cheese, chocolate, alcohol, stress, smoking or even changes in sleeping habits or the weather. Dr. Gerber said: "The brain of a typical migraine sufferer was hyperactive but lacked the energy reserves necessary to sustain this activity. It's like a Ferrari engine running out of petrol," he said. One useful tip from the Headache Federation: Migraines typically occur not during stress but after it. On the first day of a vacation, for example. So take a short, pre-holiday rest before setting off on a journey.

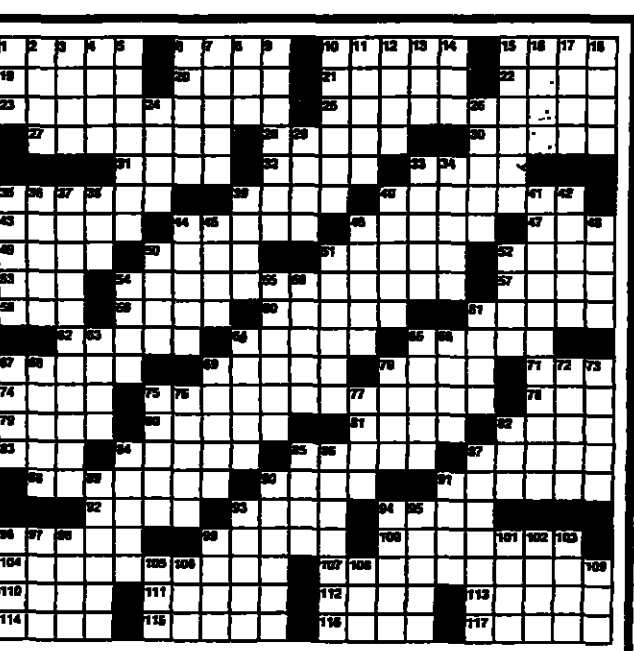
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WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NOTES PARK HERE
By Barry Caw

- ACROSS
1. Scouring
2. Shortening
3. Author of "The Plague"
4. Type of wrestling
5. Pattern
6. US supercomputer
7. Lay an old woman
8. Glacial ridges
9. Hollywood
10. Judson of a land
11. Global fund
12. Favourite
13. Employee's hope
14. Kinds of soda
15. One
16. English composer
17. Crime
18. Something
19. Computer is true
20. Musical period

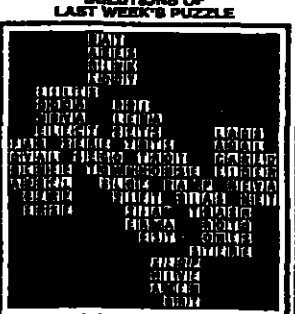
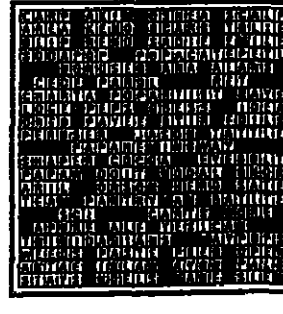
- DOWN
1. Musical instrument
2. Kind of dance
3. Friends
4. Wrist band
5. Tension
6. Repetitive
7. Japanese
8. Wrist band
9. Musical instrument
10. Kind of dance
11. Musical instrument
12. Kind of dance
13. Friends
14. Wrist band
15. Tension
16. Repetitive
17. Japanese
18. Wrist band
19. Musical instrument
20. Kind of dance



1. Distinguished barrister rescued beleaguered colleague by using the tools of their trade.
2. Aging asbestos has become a mounting health hazard in our older schools.
3. No doubt that Mr. Charles Darwin would be irked by "I'll be a monkey's uncle."
4. Violent storm kept lighthouse keeper more vigilant than usual.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TLECEH TWPFRAB BIRI KVCARQ VWLEAH
ITRWFP KBI QW KVCEA CQI YWA
IQBYHEQI QW TPLIHL — By Earl Ireland
2. ZAX WBYLO LFJ OLVUMPH VZKY AFLUW
JZO AL PMZO PJW VLYLULBCM KEAJ
ALYBCH WACQD ZEDEFPOUR KY QJNMD.
QLLU, M37 — By Rita Salvato
3. ZONE KLOOKS WENT ADOOZA ER DCKO
ACSA, "EX KENOV UP KICK OCNDS WENY"
PCWDO, CRY E ICRO LUNXA." — By Duane H. McGary
4. JAIL YA BELOW PJBT JAB EMOBIV WJ
GYAP RCEATGYUBAW OLDCRYPT CAF WFB
ICDEBTW TOFYAM. — By Ed Haddleson

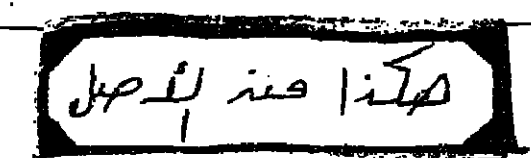


BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The chief differences between plants and animals are:
(a) Most plants are stationary. On the other hand, most animals have ability to move from place to place.
(b) Animals have a limited scheme of growth, whereas plants have an unlimited one.
(c) Most plants have a structural framework composed chiefly of cellulose, a substance absent from the bodies of most animals.
(d) Animals are unable to manufacture foods and other complex substances from raw materials of air and soil, whereas plants can manufacture foods and other complex substances from them.
2. AVERAGE LIFE OF ANIMALS:
- Ant 1 year.
- Camel 50 years.
- Cat 15 years.
- Lion 70 years.
- Rabbit 8 years.
- Sheep 12 years.
- Whale 500 years.
- Mouse 2-3 years.
3. Insects visit flowers to obtain honey. Some flowers attract insects by their fine colours or by the perfumes which they emit.

ANSWERS

4. It is necessary for the proper growth of a plant that sun's rays should reach its leaves, etc. Some plants require sunlight comparatively more than others. So in order to get as much of light as possible, they spread their leaves horizontally and their flowers face the sun. Moreover, several such plants require for their fertilisation insects and butterflies which like to sit with their wings spread in the sun. That is why these flowers have their faces towards the sun.
5. (a) The lion.
(b) The eagle.
(c) The jackal.
(d) The firefly.
- (A) WHAT IS IT?
(a) The see-saw.
(b) The rainbow.
(c) The keyhole.
- (B) FRACTIONS:
 $4\frac{1}{2} + 7\frac{3}{4} = 12\frac{1}{4}$
 $2\frac{1}{4} + 1\frac{3}{4} + 8\frac{1}{4} = 12\frac{1}{4}$



Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.5415	1.5397
Deutsche Mark	1.5943	1.5948
Swiss Franc	1.3425	1.3478
French Franc	5.4458	5.4735
Japanese Yen	100.54	100.65
European Currency Unit	1.2040	1.1988

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.0600	4.7500	4.8500	5.1200
Sterling Pound	4.7500	4.9300	5.1600	5.6800
Deutsche Mark	4.8100	4.8100	4.8100	5.0600
Swiss Franc	3.9300	4.1200	4.2500	4.5000
French Franc	5.2500	5.3700	5.5000	5.6700
Japanese Yen	1.8700	1.9800	2.1200	2.2500
European Currency Unit	5.8400	5.8700	5.9300	6.2500

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	393.25	7.70	Silver	5.52	0.125

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.6920
Sterling Pound	1.0601	1.0654
Deutsche Mark	0.4303	0.4325
Swiss Franc	0.5111	0.5137
French Franc	0.1259	0.1265
Japanese Yen	0.6825	0.6759
Dutch Guilder	0.3840	0.3859

Saudi Rial	0.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	0.0436	0.0438

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6150	1.6270
Lebanese Lira	0.040500	0.041730
Saudi Rial	0.1637	0.1663
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3650
Qatari Rial	0.1673	0.1689
Egyptian Pound	0.2010	0.2250
Omani Rial	1.7750	1.7840
UAE Dirham	0.1873	0.1883
Greek Drachma	0.2800	0.3120
Cypriot Pound	1.3310	1.3980

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3862/72	Canadian dollar	1.5998/08
	1.5998/08	Deutsche marks	1.7928/38
	1.7928/38	Dutch guilders	1.3472/82
	1.3472/82	Swiss francs	33.94/94
	33.94/94	Belgian francs	5.4690/40
	5.4690/40	French francs	157.6/5.1
	157.6/5.1	Italian lire	100.64/69
	100.64/69	Japanese yen	7.6975/75
	7.6975/75	Swedish crowns	6.9540/90
	6.9540/90	Norwegian crowns	6.2780/30
	6.2780/30	Danish crowns	11.5336/46
One sterling	\$1.5336/46		
One ounce of gold	\$393.05/393.40		

Prices soar in Sanaa

SANAA (R) — It costs a lot more to live in Sanaa than before Yemen's war broke out in early May. From sugar to toothpaste, imported or local products, prices have risen often by 50 per cent and sometimes as much as 500 per cent in seven weeks.

The patience of many residents of the northern capital is wearing thin though government officials say at least they have displayed more restraint than in December and January, when they took to the streets to protest price increases.

Residents accuse merchants of black-marketing and raising prices without justification.

"I can understand it if I am buying an imported item, but locally produced or assembled items — this is a rip-off," one housewife said.

She said milk had gone up by nearly 160 per cent, toothpaste by 500 per cent. "These are locally produced items. There is no reason to justify these increases."

Outwardly, life is almost normal in this city of 1.5 million people. Sanaa airport was reopened about two weeks ago though only the national carrier Yemenia flies.

The markets are crowded as usual, though about half the shops are closed and there is an overnight curfew. But traders say many people are just looking, not buying, and profits are down.

"These are difficult days. We are just trying to cut our losses as there are no buyers. We have to bear up," one said.

Officials say the people are ready to sacrifice, aware of the struggle with southern Yemenis who seceded from a four-year union with the north soon after the war flared on May 4.

"The people's bearing is not due only to the existence of the emergency law declared since the start of the war, but also because of a realization the country faces a national risk, requiring sacrifices," one political source said.

But a housewife said: "There is a limit to our endurance. So far our patience is partly genuine and partly feigned, and in either case we are suffering."

Imported wheat, flour and one kind of rice are subsidized. Officially, prices of these items remained unchanged, but they were becoming scarce in the market, a housewife said.

Government warnings of penalties did not stop price rises.

The price of sugar in particular has gone up by about 200 per cent, a 50-kilogramme sack costing 1,400 riyals before the war, was fetching about 4,100 riyals, residents said.

Prices have shot up by 45 to 70 per cent for unsubsidized rice, edible oil, tea, beans and cheese. Meat, chicken and vegetables rose by 15 to 45 per cent. Cigarettes by 75 per cent.

Even the beloved qat, a mildly narcotic leaf that most Yemeni men chew in the afternoon, has doubled in price.

To a limited extent higher prices on imports were due to the decline in the free-market value of the rial, to between 80 and 100 to the dollar from around 70 before the war.

Singapore airlines in \$10b deal with Boeing, Airbus

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore Airlines (SIA) Wednesday announced orders for 52 Boeing and Airbus aircraft, including options, worth \$10.3 billion in one of the largest deals in civil aviation history.

SIA Chairman J.Y. Pillay said the purchase would help the airline, among the world's most successful, meet targeted growth of eight to 10 per cent a year over the next 10 years.

The current orders will provide the necessary capacity to fulfill that objective, an SIA statement said. Mr. Pillay told a news conference the deal involved firm orders for 11 Boeing 747-400s and options for 11 others, together worth \$4.9 billion. There were firm orders for 10 Airbus A340-300E aircraft and options for 20 more worth \$5.4 billion.

The B747-400 would be powered by Pratt and Whitney PW 4056 engines and the A340-300E by CFM56-SC4 engines. The \$10.3 billion total price tag includes spares and spare engines.

If all options are exercised, the Singapore carrier will have a fleet of 111 aircraft by the year 2003, when deliveries are to be completed. The airline now operates 63 aircraft.

"We expect to be able to self-finance the purchase of the firm orders and the aircraft under option, although we may occasionally have to resort to borrowing from the market for short periods," Mr. Pillay said.

Mr. Pillay said the industry had gone through some difficult periods and turbulence, but there were signs that it was now emerging from the worst times of depressed yields and lower load factors.

SIA managing director Cheong Choong Kong said the order "is an expression of our faith in the long-term health of the aviation industry and the promising future for SIA."

A spokesman for Airbus Industrie described the deal as "particularly important" because SIA was known to set standards by which other airlines are judged.

The airline industry has been going through recession, so this sends an important message to the rest of the industry that the bad times, we hope, are behind us and the good times on their way," the spokesman told AFP.

The SIA order for 10 Airbus planes and options for 20 more will make the Singapore carrier Airbus Industrie's biggest customer, he said.

Mr. Pillay said the deal cancelled options already held by SIA for 15 Boeing 747s and 13 A340 aircraft.

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Russia signs partnership pact

BRUSSELS (R) — Russia signed NATO's partnership for peace Wednesday and, proclaiming that it could do business with the West, sealed an agreement on broader cooperation hailed as vital to post-cold war security in Europe.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev signed the partnership scheme on closer military links with the alliance at NATO headquarters, putting an end to recent disputes between the two sides on issues ranging from Bosnia to arms control.

Following bitter complaints from Moscow that NATO was ignoring its big power status, the two former arch-foes have also agreed a framework for broader political ties which go beyond military cooperation.

Mr. Kozyrev told a meeting of alliance ambassadors and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that cooperation with NATO was not without problems. There had been a lack of coordination and some unwillingness to change old stereotypes. But he added:

"Let me state with full certainty... there are no insurmountable obstacles on the way to shaping a workable relationship between Russia and its Western partners."

"Today, we take one more step in the direction of strengthening relations between Russia and NATO and in the search for new formulas to secure common European stability and security," Mr. Kozyrev told the meeting.

"This is a defining moment in shaping the security of our continent," said NATO Deputy Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino. "There will only be stability in Europe with and not against Russia."

But he made clear that NATO would retain its independence.

There could be no question of giving Russia any veto over alliance decisions or of dividing Europe into spheres of influence, as happened after the 1945 Yalta agreement between the World War II allies.

"Such a relationship has nothing to do with some kind of NATO-Russian condominium or a 'Yalta two'," Mr. Balanzino said.

Mr. Kozyrev agreed. "This is not a 'Yalta two' but a 'Brussels one,'" he said.

Mr. Balanzino said new ties between Russia and NATO had to help build confidence throughout Europe. His remarks were clearly intended to reassure Moscow's former satellites.

Countries like Poland and Hungary want to join the alliance despite Russian opposition and fear they could be shut out of a special relationship between NATO and Russia. The alliance has promised to take on new members at some point in the future.

Mr. Balanzino and Mr. Kozyrev, the only alliance foreign minister to attend the signing, said good relations between NATO and Russia would also serve the interests of those countries.

The broader relationship with Russia would not be

kept secret from other former cold war enemies that have now become partners, Mr. Balanzino said. NATO would share information with Russia and consult it "on issues of common concern."

A separate joint declaration to be published Wednesday sets out the principles of that broader cooperation, recognising Russia's status as a major power.

"Today... we take a major step toward building the bonds of cooperation that can secure the peace of a broader Europe," Mr. Christopher told the meeting.

Moscow, which postponed signing the partnership for peace in April, has been pressing for special political ties with NATO. But the alliance has insisted on setting clear limits on how far it could go in setting up special ties with Russia.

Russia is the 21st country to sign the partnership, on offer to all former Soviet Bloc states and some other nations. It provides for joint military training, exercises and defence planning but offers no security guarantees.

Russia told NATO Wednesday that it accepted the principle of alliance expansion to take in Eastern Europe but said it should not be done soon, NATO sources told Reuters.

Mr. Kozyrev told allied ambassadors that Russia could still be interested in joining — but after Eastern European states. Russia has said before it wants to join NATO.

"His tone was very conciliatory and he accepted the

principle of NATO expansion," said one alliance source, who asked not to be identified. "We were delighted."

Mr. Kozyrev told the meeting that the partnership scheme should be given time to work before the 16-nation alliance expanded.

Germany Wednesday greeted Moscow's signing of NATO's partnership for peace scheme as an important "historical milestone" that would ensure peace in Europe.

Defence Minister Volker Ruge said the signing transferred stability eastwards through well-balanced cooperation and integration.

"I welcome the success of all those involved as a historical milestone in a process that gives Europe more stability and thereby ensures peace," he said.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Russia had to be fully integrated into the construction of new security structures in Europe and added that Moscow would bring its rich experience and deep commitment into the partnership.

"In view of its size, geographical position, population and military potential, Russia plays an exceptionally significant role in European security and stability," he said.

"A constructive relationship between NATO and Russia — even beyond the partnership itself — is a necessary complement," he added in his statement issued in Bonn after Mr. Kozyrev signed the scheme for closer military links with the West in Brussels.



FAKES GO UP IN SMOKE: Luxury T-shirts and leather handbags sporting fake labels went up in flames on Tuesday as French Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy watched over the public burning of 1,000 counterfeit items at a Paris airport. Members of prestigious French luxury goods firms such as Hermes, Cartier, Dior Cardin, Lacoste, Chanel and Veitton looked on at Orly Airport as customs officers torched piles of seized counterfeit items while bulldozers crushed

U.S., Russia to discuss Bosnian peace as battles continue

SARAJEVO (R) — U.S. and Russian ministers met to complete a peace plan for battered Bosnia Wednesday, amid infantry and artillery fire in a central war zone, a U.N. spokesman said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters travelling with him to a NATO meeting in Brussels that agreement on details of a big power peace plan for Bosnia was very close.

Mr. Christopher met Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to discuss the plan, worked out by diplomats from Britain, France, the United States, Germany and Russia.

The major power initiative is expected to propose a 51-49 ethnic split of Bosnia between a Muslim and Croat federation and their Serb foes.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Kozyrev are due to discuss the results of their talks, which also focused on North Korea's suspected secret weapons programme, later at a news conference.

European diplomats say foreign ministers of the five nations have provisionally agreed to meet on July 1 and 2 to sign off on the proposals, which will then be presented to the Bosnian factions with a "take it or leave it" ultimatum.

Both sides in the Bosnian conflict have raised considerable objections to the deal, the latest in a line of international peace efforts. Mr. Christopher said agreement was also close on a package of promises and threats to

encourage acceptance. In Bosnia U.N. officials said military activity persisted at a higher level than in the first week of a temporary truce introduced on June 10 to prepare the parties to accept the long term peace deal.

A U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, Major Rob Annink, said infantry fighting continued all Tuesday and into Wednesday to the west of Ribnica but could not say if the Bosnian Serb or the Muslim-led Bosnian army initiated the attacks.

The Bosnian Serb leadership has for some days accused the Bosnian army of attacking Serb-held villages near a strategic road linking Ribnica and Zavidovici, south of Mount Ozren and has threatened a "massive counter-offensive."

The road cuts across a long finger of mountainous terrain under Serb control but surrounded on three sides by forces of the Bosnian government.

Maj. Annink said there had been an artillery and tank fire exchange near government-held Zavidovici Tuesday. He described it as a Serb response to a perceived but unconfirmed Muslim assault.

Government controlled Sarajevo Radio said that 19 civilians were injured by shell fire in Zavidovici during Serb attacks Tuesday.

The U.N. has said its ability to verify the claims of either side is hampered by a limited number of personnel in the remote Ozren region and severe restrictions placed

on their movement by both armies. Bosnian Serb sources have said 5,000 Serb civilians have left their homes on the Ozren frontlines in the face of a Muslim advance that has captured three villages.

The U.N. has refused to confirm that a major Muslim ground assault is under way. Officials said an artillery spotting radar had been moved to the region from nearby Tuzla in the hope of clarifying the situation.

Fighting has also continued elsewhere, Maj. Annink said, particularly around Doboj and Tesanj, both towns close to the Ozren battlegrounds.

Maj. Annink reported an upsurge in activity in the northwest enclave of Bihać, where forces loyal to Sarajevo have recently mounted a fierce offensive against breakaway Muslim troops fighting for local strongman Fikret Abdic.

Two British soldiers have been injured in an explosion in central Bosnia, the British Defence Ministry said Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for the ministry said one soldier was reported badly injured in the incident, which occurred late Tuesday.

"Two British soldiers were injured when their armoured vehicle sustained damage in an explosion, the nature of which is currently being investigated," she said.

"The incident happened about 10 kilometres to the southwest of Maglaj in central Bosnia, a third occupant was uninjured."

Berlusconi makes EU debut

ROME (R) — Italy could be a key player in the fight developing over who should be the next European Commission president when new Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi makes his European Union (EU) debut at this week's summit in Corfu.

Media tycoon Berlusconi, propelled to power by a free market message in a made-for-television campaign, revels to the Greek island gathering buoyed by his Forza Italia Party's triumph showing in this month's European Parliament elections.

He believes his popular endorsement 10 weeks after his general election victory will put the lid on expressions of concern in Europe over the presence of five ministers from the neo-fascist-led national alliance in his right-leaning cabinet.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, French President Francois Mitterrand and outgoing Commission President Jacques Delors have all been critical of the National Alliance and will meet Mr. Berlusconi for the first time at the two-day summit opening Friday.

Their concern has been shared by fellow Socialists in the Belgian coalition led by Christian Democrat Jean-Luc Dehaene, one of three main candidates in the contest to succeed Mr. Delors.

Mr. Dehaene is backed by Germany and France, the countries past Italian government traditionally fol-

lowed on EU policy. This time could be different, with the Italians making clear they would like a decision on the succession put off and saying publicly that they have not made up their minds whom to support.

"The matter is of utmost importance and should not be resolved in a hurry," Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino said Tuesday.

"That is the sense of the recent contacts the prime minister and I have had with representatives of our partners," he said.

The other main candidates are outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, like Mr. Dehaene a Christian Democrat, and Britain's Sir Leon Brittan, the current trade commissioner.

France, Germany and Greece have all made clear they want the issue wrapped up in Corfu rather than delayed for a special summit later this year as Italian officials have suggested.

Mr. Martino said the appointment should be linked to the filling of other top posts in major international organisations including that of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) for which Italian former Minister Renato Ruggiero is a candidate.

Diplomatic sources say the Italian position on the presidency marks a departure in style by Rome's new government from previous Christian Democrat-led administrations which had

been content with a low profile on the foreign stage. Mr. Berlusconi, whose switch this year from big business to politics buried the corruption-stained old guard at the March general elections, has pledged continued commitment to the pro-EU, pro-NATO pillars of Italian foreign policy.

But his government has also let it be known that it wants more say in international affairs and will take a firm stand on issues it feels strongly about.

Mr. Martino said Italy would use Corfu to voice dissatisfaction with its milk quotas, an issue that could hold up the EU budget, and its belief that "certain common policies should be better aligned to the rules of the market."

Mr. Berlusconi's free market vision has pleased Britain, which now sees Italy as a potential ally in its opposition to EU social legislation and what it deems unnecessary regulation.

British Prime Minister John Major's Conservative government has said it has no qualms about dealing with the Italian coalition since all its partners including the National Alliance were democratically elected and appointed.

Of the EU leaders who will be at Corfu, only German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr. Dehaene and Mr. Lubbers have met Mr. Berlusconi since he took office in May.

Russian premier arrives in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived here Tuesday to sign several bilateral agreements as officials said a U.S.-Russian summit meeting was planned for later this year in Washington.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was to finalise agreements on cooperation in oil exploration and space cooperation, but his visit was also seen as a sign of his growing importance in Moscow as the number two to President Boris Yeltsin.

"Chernomyrdin is running the government day to day," one senior U.S. administration official said. "Yeltsin as the leader of the country is involved in foreign policy issues but not as much perhaps in day to day government as he once was."

In the first of two days of talks planned between the Russian premier and Vice President Al Gore — they chair a bilateral commission exploring opportunities for trade and other forms of cooperation, both men met late Tuesday at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum.

After shaking hands before a replica of the superpower's Apollo-Soyuz space ships that linked up in space in 1975, Mr. Gore stressed that the U.S.-Russian partnership in space would "benefit the world, not just the United States and Russia."

"There are more important real benefits for each country, not only in terms of technology, but also in terms of bridges of understanding that develop when we work toward common goals," Mr. Gore said.

The two leaders then attended the premier of Destiny in Space, a 40-minute film with Views of Venus and Mars, footage from nine shuttle missions and from the Russian orbiting Mir space station, all viewed on the Air and Space Museum's giant, 23-by-15 metre (75-by-50 foot) screen.

The exact date of the presidential summit, which will last two to three days, will be decided at the Group of Seven meeting of leaders of the major industrialised countries in Naples, Italy in July, a U.S. administration official said.

President Bill Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin, who will meet at the G-7 meeting, have already held two summits, one in Vancouver, Canada, last year and one in Moscow in January.

Russia has long been pressing for membership in the G-7, which groups the world's leading industrial countries. But the U.S. official said allowing Moscow into the club was not imminent.

2 Cambodian ministers threaten to quit over move to outlaw Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Finance Minister Sam Rainsy will join Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivuthi in threatening to resign if the government goes ahead with a motion to outlaw Cambodia's radical Khmer Rouge, a Finance Ministry official said Wednesday.

The finance and foreign ministers were reported to be against the move to outlaw the guerrillas as they felt it would be used as fuel by hardliners in the government for increased military action against the Khmer Rouge.

Sam Rainsy has expressed fears that increased military spending would undermine his plans for economic development. The military had already overspent its budget allocation by launching the recent offensive to capture the Khmer Rouge's Pailin headquarters in northwest Cambodia.

Government forces seized Pailin March 19 but lost it to a Khmer Rouge counter-attack one month later.

King Norodom Sihanouk then proposed peace talks to end the ongoing conflict but they broke down last week with the radicals refusing to agree to a ceasefire.

The government retaliated by ordering the closure of the Khmer Rouge's office in the

capital and evicting the guerrilla faction's representatives. Several government officials said the motion to outlaw the radical faction should be the next move against the guerrillas.

"The government has run out of patience," Information Ministry spokesman Sieng Lapresse said, adding that the Khmer Rouge had left the government no choice but to fight.

"It's time to wipe them out," he said.

Prince Sirivuthi was not available for comment as he had yet to return from an official visit to Jakarta.

Sieng Lapresse, however, said it was important to outlaw the guerrilla faction in order to draw a clear distinction between the legitimate government and the rebels.

If any countries were to continue to assist the rebels in any way after they had been outlawed, it would be direct interference in Cambodian affairs, he stressed.

When accused of supporting the Khmer Rouge, Thai officials have often pointed out that the guerrillas are a legitimate faction with representation in the capital.

Sieng Lapresse said he believed the motion to outlaw

the guerrillas would get a majority vote in parliament. Meanwhile a government amnesty programme for Khmer Rouge defectors is losing appeal with guerrillas and numbers are declining sharply, former guerrillas said Wednesday.

Ex-Khmer Rouge fighters spend eight to 10 weeks at this military-run re-education camp just east of the capital before graduating with the offer of a post, and possible promotion, in the Cambodian army.

Some 600 defectors finished the first course of re-education in November but the figure was down to 198 in May and only 51 former guerrillas are currently enrolled.

Much of the initial success of the programme was attributed to heavy publicity.

Co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen made regular public appeals for guerrillas to defect and helicopters air-dropped leaflets with the same message into Khmer Rouge-controlled zones.

Death toll in China floods hits 719

BEIJING (AFP) — The death toll in severe flooding in southern and eastern China rose to 719 Wednesday, as Guangdong province braced itself for exceptional sea tides that threatened to wreak havoc in the booming Pearl River delta.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs said 14,400 people had been injured in two weeks of flooding, which as of Wednesday had affected more than 61.3 million people in six provinces.

Nearly 600,000 houses have been destroyed and almost two million damaged, while over three million hectares (nearly eight million acres) of farmland are under water, the ministry said, putting total direct economic losses at a massive 30.5 billion yuan (\$3.5 billion).

Worst hit, according to the ministry, is central Hunan province, where 190 people have been killed and 7,791 injured in flooding from the Xiangjiang River.

In southern Guangdong, 174 people died, 3,094 were injured and 65 listed as missing, the statement said.

although local officials earlier Wednesday put the province's death toll in the worst flooding in a century at 215, with 4,000 injured.

Some 141 people have perished in southwestern Guangxi, while 80 died in eastern Fujian and 68 in eastern Zhejiang, the statement said.

In Guangdong, officials expressed strong fears Wednesday that the situation might worsen with the arrival Friday of seasonal high sea tides.

India's Janata Dal Party splits again

NEW DELHI (R) — India's fragmented Janata Dal Party has suffered its second big split since 1991 elections, with nearly a third of its deputies in parliament's Lok Sabha (lower house) breaking off to form a separate group.

In a statement late Tuesday, 14 of the centre-left party's 39 Lok Sabha members accused party leaders of weakness and lack of discipline. They said the existing Janata Dal was becoming irrelevant and starting to disintegrate.

"Consequent upon a split in the Janata Dal, we have decided to sit as a distinct political group in the Lok Sabha," the deputies said in a memorandum to the parliamentary speaker, requesting separate seats and facilities in parliament.

Prominent Janata Dal Deputy George Fernandes told reporters the breakaway group regarded itself as the "real Janata Dal" and claimed support from all levels of the party nationwide.

The Janata Dal had a brief 11-month stint in power up to October 1990, when its Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap (V.P.) Singh lost a no-confidence motion in parliament.

It started to fragment and lost its position as the country's main opposition in 1991 general elections, when the right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party came in a firm second to the ruling Congress Party of prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Of 60 Janata Dal deputies elected in those polls, 19 walked away the following year to form a separate group under Ajit Singh. That group has since split further, with Ajit Singh joining Congress.

What was left of the Janata Dal made a poor showing in state polls last year, when it was humbled in the key northern region of Uttar Pradesh by a coalition of two other leftist parties.

Political analysts said the new split was caused mainly by the ailing V.P. Singh's refusal to resume the party leadership. No other candidate has won acceptance by all factions.

Mr. Singh said the split was inevitable and a natural consequence of the leadership deadlock.

"I had told party leaders as far back as January that either we resolve the contradictions or call off the show," United News of India quoted him as saying.

Indian newspaper said Congress was not set to make good political capital from the split, watching the further weakening of a rival as it celebrates Mr. Rao's three years in power.

Some of the Janata Dal dissidents might even join Congress in the near future, the papers said.

Others could ally themselves with the leftist Samajwadi Party, which broke away from the Janata Dal before the 1991 elections

At Elvis auction, even guitar pick costs \$800

LAS VEGAS (AP) — If it belonged to Elvis Presley, it has to be expensive. Even his chipped guitar pick cost \$800 at an auction at the Las Vegas Hilton. Other items sold Saturday to fans and collectors included Elvis' personal guitar, \$30,000; his expired American Express card, \$36,000 and his birth certificate, \$60,000. "At this rate, I couldn't even afford one of his shoelaces," said Morris Lyon, a New Yorker who brought \$600 and walked away with nothing. Other items included the king's sequined jumpsuits, jewels and a Mercedes limousine with six doors. About 2,000 people attended the auction at the hotel where Elvis appeared in \$700 sold-out concerts before his death in 1977. The auction featured the collection of Jimmy Velver, former recording artist and friend of Elvis. He spent 20 years collecting about 600 items. "I'm not getting any younger, so it's either store it or sell it," Mr. Velver said. "I think it's best to put it in the hands of others who loved Elvis too."

'A' plate sells for record price

AUCKLAND (AFP) — A number plate bearing the single letter A has sold at auction for a New Zealand record of 277,875 NZ dollars (\$164,182), the New Zealand Herald reported Wednesday. It beat the previous record price of NZ dollars 191,000 paid for the plate bearing the letter U set earlier this month. The A plate was previously sold at auction in May 1989 for NZ dollars 5,000. Personalised Plates Director Murray Thom said the plate was put up by the estate of the original purchaser. He described the new owner as an Auckland businessman and plate collector who emigrated from Europe.

Wakeup call of a lifetime

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Lisa Billingsley awoke in the middle of the night and heard a hiss. She jumped back into bed and told companion Eddie Donald there was something on the floor. Donald turned on the light, looked down, turned the light back off and jumped back into bed. That something was an 18-foot (6-metre) long boa constrictor. "I didn't even tell her what it was," Donald said. "I just said, 'we've got to get out of here.'" The snake, a boa constrictor about 18 inches (45 cm) in diameter, had pushed back their window screen and slid inside early Monday. It took six police officers and a Humane Society officer to carry the 120-pound (54-kilogram) creature out of the couple's house. It was "one of the biggest things I've ever seen," said Humane Society officer Julie Young. She said the society frequently gets reports of 15-foot (5-metre) long snakes spotted in back yards, but they are usually garden snakes. "I thought, for once, they got the report right," she said. Police do not know where the snake came from. Boa constrictors are not native to the area.

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A Rwandan woman cries as she holds her dying child in Kabega, near Kigali. Up to 500,000 people are believed to have

been killed in the ethnic fighting which erupted over two months ago (AFP photo)

Fugitive Abiola addresses rally in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Moshood Abiola, a millionaire businessman who declared himself president of Nigeria this month, appeared in public to address a rally in Lagos Wednesday despite being a fugitive from the police, witnesses said.

Mr. Abiola, who is widely believed to have won last year's annulled presidential elections, spoke to about 4,000 supporters in a working class area just one kilometre from a police station.

"I haven't been in hiding. There is no way Abiola can hide," he told the rally.

"I have deliberately withdrawn for a few days to devote myself along with members of the transition committee to the process of concrete planning of the structure and

model of government that will satisfy and meet the grave economic and political challenges of Nigeria," he said.

The police declared Mr. Abiola a wanted person after he escaped house arrest and declared himself president on June 11. There were no police to be seen at the gathering.

"Nigerians must rise up to protect democracy and our divine right to choose leaders to govern us," said Mr. Abiola who drove to the rally and wore an immaculate green Nigerian gown embroidered in gold.

The audience was ecstatic. Some carried banners saying "Abiola is the answer." Others scrambled to shake his hand.

Meanwhile, military leader General Sani Abacha said a constitutional conference rejected by the opposition, due to start on June 27 in Abuja will debate "fundamental issues" and will not just draft a new constitution.

"Perhaps the appellation 'constitutional' has misled many to think that the conference will merely draft yet another constitution. Far from it, it is our intention that the conference will debate the fundamental issues that will enable us to move forward in unity and harmony, with justice and equity," he said during a meeting with politicians and "leaders of thought."

It is the first time Nigerian authorities have publicly said the conference is not planned

solely to fashion a new constitution for the country.

Critics and government opponents have described the constitution as diversionary, a waste of time and resources and "a ruse" by the military to perpetuate itself in power.

They say two constitutions made in 1979 and 1989 have remained largely unimplemented.

Gen. Abacha said critics should "reconsider their position. Let them go to the conference and plead their case before the assemblage representing the widest possible spectrum of Nigerian society as a whole."

Some of these critics, he said, were those who invited his administration to power last November.

French-speaking African peacekeepers leave Kigali

KIGALI (R) — The United Nations Wednesday evacuated 42 French-speaking African peacekeepers from the Rwandan capital Kigali where heavy fighting raged between rebels and government forces.

Major Jean-Guy Plante told Reuters U.N. military observers from Togo, Congo and Senegal were evacuated to Nairobi as a precaution ahead of planned French military action strongly opposed by the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

"Indications lead us to believe they were not welcome," he said.

In neighbouring Uganda, a French envoy there would not allow the French intervention force into their country, a rebel spokesman said.

French envoy Jean-Michel Marlaud and rebel representatives disagreed bitterly in talks in Uganda Tuesday over France's plans to send troops to Rwanda on a humanitarian, U.N.-backed mission to rescue civilians.

"They (the French) asked us for clearance to proceed to Rwanda and we said no," the RPF spokesman said.

RPF Commander Major-General Paul Kagame refused to meet Mr. Marlaud, the French ambassador to Kigali, who is trying to persuade the rebels to drop objections to the deployment.

"They disagreed bitterly over the slightest detail. The RPF would not even hear of humanitarian assistance," said an Ugandan official. An African diplomat said the

talks ended in disarray.

Heavy fighting rocked Kigali overnight and most of Wednesday morning as the combatants exchanged artillery, mortar and machinegun fire in some of the fiercest fighting in recent days.

The RPF lobbied shell after shell at government positions on hills surrounding the central African capital.

France was pressing ahead with its military build-up despite the opposition in Africa and fears at home that troops could be heading toward a quagmire.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Dugue said Paris expected the U.N. Security Council to give approval later in the day and troops could go into Rwanda this week.

President Francois Mitterrand gathered ministers and military commanders to discuss plans for the operation, code-named Turquoise.

"We are fully aware that this is a difficult, complex and risky operation, but it is France's honour to embark on a humanitarian operation," government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy told reporters after a regular weekly cabinet meeting.

French Television broadcast films of French Marines landing at Bangui. Military sources said the Central African capital could be the rear base for some 2,300 soldiers involved in Turquoise. Scouts had already reached the Zaire airport of Goma to check which airports and roads could be used.

The evacuation of the

French-speaking African peacekeepers from Kigali reflected growing anxiety that the French plan could put at risk other members of the small U.N. force already in the country. It was feared that the Francophone peacekeepers would be seen as natural allies of the French-led forces.

Congo, Senegal and Togo have all expressed support for and interest in playing a role in a French-led military force.

The RPF has called on the U.N. Security Council to withdraw the U.N. force in Rwanda if it approves the French operation.

Paris previously supported the government of slain President Juvenal Habyarimana and the rebels say French troops took part in combat operations against the RPF in 1990.

The rebels, who see the French as backing the government, have vowed to fight an intervention.

"If France intervenes militarily, the war is going to change and could worsen," RPF Chairman Alexis Kanyarengwe told the daily Liberation.

Mr. Kanyarengwe, speaking from the RPF's headquarters near the Ugandan border, said French intervention would endanger civilians Paris as trying to save.

"It could set the entire region ablaze," he said. "In Zaire and in Burundi, there is the same geography and the same kinds of people. So the entire region would be affected."

An estimated 500,000 people have been killed since the RPF launched its offensive after President Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

Mr. Habyarimana's French-trained Presidential Guard turned on all his opponents and supported by extremist Hutu militias then began systematically liquidating members of the minority Tutsi tribe from which the RPF draws most of its support.

The RPF says the only way to stop the killings is by the defeat of the government forces and arrest of their leaders.

Analysts believe the RPF is trying to go for an all-out kill before the arrival of the French-led force. The fighting virtually paralysed operations by the U.N.'s tiny force in Kigali to try to rescue civilians trapped cross battle-lines.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Paris said Wednesday the French government is poised to begin military intervention in Rwanda early Thursday, provided the U.N. Security Council gives the green light.

Paris expects a favourable Security Council vote later Wednesday on the draft resolution authorising Operation Turquoise, the sources added.

The military intervention would begin in an area where Rwanda's ethnic Tutsi minority is endangered, close to the town of Cyangugu in south-west Rwanda, in a zone held by forces of the Hutu majority government, the sources said.

Scharping calls for change, says 'Kohl must go'

HALLE, Germany (R) — Faltering opposition leader Rudolf Scharping declared Wednesday it was time for a change in Germany and urged his Social Democrats (SPD) to redouble their efforts to defeat Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Mr. Scharping, struggling to regain the lead in the opinion polls before the Oct. 16 election, told an SPD congress the party should not be discouraged by recent setbacks.

"Helmut Kohl must go," he cried out to cheering delegates crowded into an east German-era indoor ice skating rink.

"We can't look ahead if we hang our heads low," he told the one-day meeting in this east German city.

It was a fighting speech, the kind the party needed to hear after losing both the German presidential and the European Parliament votes recently, and the normally stiff premier of Rheinland-Palatinate state delivered it with verve.

"We want a change because this is a chance for Germany," he wound up as delegates chanted "now it starts now it starts" to show their campaign would enter a "second phase."

Mr. Scharping also struck out against SPD rivals whose sniping at his moderate policies and wooden style have threatened to sabotage his campaign just as earlier critics undermined the party's last two failed challenges to Mr. Kohl.

He denounced left-wingers urging him to announce he would seek a coalition with the environmentalist Greens, saying that would only weaken the SPD's chances of winning.

Delegates were clearly pleased with the speech but it was not sure even a more aggressive Scharping could repair the damage the SPD has suffered in recent months.

Mr. Kohl, who six months ago seemed sure to lose his fourth bid at re-election, has recovered in the opinion polls and his Christian Democrats would now win 43 per cent

against 35 for the SPD, according to the latest survey by the Forsa group.

The SPD's first Clinton-like slogan "jobs, jobs, jobs" could not help it from slumping to 32.2 per cent in the European polls and supporters wonder if another American import — "time for a change" — can roll back a wave of optimism in Germany.

"We are doing so badly in the polls that we can only go up from here," one delegate remarked.

The imbalance between Kohl's professional campaign and Mr. Scharping's struggling challenge were on clear display this week in Halle, where both stumped for their parties' candidates in the crucial Saxony-Anhalt state election here Sunday.

The SPD failed to beat Mr. Kohl's scandal-ridden Christian Democrats in Saxony-Anhalt's local polls 10 days ago and another loss in the state poll would be a serious setback.

The veteran chancellor preached his message of

optimism and economic recovery to about 8,000 people at a rally on Halle's main square Monday. By contrast, Mr. Scharping spoke to only 400 at a chic cabaret the following evening.

In his speech, Mr. Scharping accused Mr. Kohl of misusing the hopes Germans had in 1990, when his promises of a quick economic upswing in the east helped him win re-election.

"Our goal is a recovery for all and not a development that accepts that jobs are lost," he told the congress due to confirm him officially as the SPD's chancellor candidate.

Mr. Scharping repeated promises not to raise taxes and to back tax breaks for investments that create jobs and foster a shift to more environmentally friendly technologies.

Rebuffing more radical anti-military resolutions passed by the Greens, he added: "We stand by the Atlantic partnership. For us, NATO and the army are not up for negotiation."

The veteran chancellor preached his message of

Company charged with developing super nicotine leaf

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major tobacco company secretly developed a tobacco plant with double the amount of nicotine found in nature, growing it in Brazil and ultimately selling it in five U.S. cigarette brands, the government has charged.

Food and Drug Commissioner David Kessler told a congressional panel that Brown and Williamson

Tobacco Co. then tried to mislead his investigation of the genetically altered tobacco plant called Y-1.

He stopped short of using the word "lie," but pointedly noted that B and W officials denied any breeding of tobacco until last Friday when they discovered the FDA already knew about Y-1.

"That sounds like a pretty deceptive way or misleading

way of answering the question," said Rep. Henry Waxman, whose House Energy and Health Subcommittee heard Mr. Kessler's report.

Also Mr. Kessler testified that an FDA probe uncovered Tobacco Industry documents showing companies add ammonia to cigarettes because it boosts the amount of nicotine that gets into a smoker's bloodstream.

He detailed industry documents that describe ammonia as an "impact booster" that can in some cigarettes double the amount of nicotine a smoker inhales.

Mr. Kessler's latest findings, however, indicate those chiefs may have perjured themselves, several subcommittee members said Tuesday.

Indonesian students protest ban on newspapers

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesian students and journalists demonstrated here Wednesday against the banning of three weekly newspapers, while even a military spokesman distanced himself from the government move.

More than 200 students and journalists staged a noisy protest in front of the Information Ministry, saying the government ban had "killed" democracy in the country.

One march involving around 150 people went to the ministry from the offices of the Legal Aid Institute (LBH), a human rights group. Scores of others went from the premises of the weekly DeTik tabloid, one of the publications banned.

Security officials confiscated banners critical of Information Minister Harmoko, but took several journalists, student and human rights representatives into the ministry. LBH Chairman Adnan Buyung was among them.

After failing to meet ministry officials, the demonstrators promised to return Thursday with a bigger rally behind them.

The government

announced Tuesday that publishing licences for DeTik, Editor and Tempo, the country's biggest selling newspaper, had been withdrawn. The authorities quoted administrative reasons for the ban on Editor and DeTik. Tempo was banned because of its editorial content, an Information Ministry official said.

But all three publications had written articles critical of Research and Technology Minister Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie, an ally of President Suharto.

A military spokesman, meanwhile, said the ban should not have happened, a press report said.

"I am close to the press and of course I do not want this situation to occur," the Suara Pembaruan daily quoted military spokesman Brigadier General Syarwan Hamid as saying. "I hope the press can learn a lesson from it."

Gen. Syarwan said he was concerned at the ban and added that the Information Ministry should have considered the move carefully before acting.

He said the government

wanted to develop openness, but that the press had to use the opportunity positively.

"Don't let the openness create a bad situation and tragedy. That is not, of course, what we want," he said.

Eros Jarot, chief editor of DeTik, and his counterpart from Tempo, Gunawan Mubammad, met Wednesday and later appeared among the students with calls to remain calm.

Mr. Jarot said however the country was entering a "clouded" era because of the government move. Mr. Jarot called on the government to make clear the motives behind the ban.

Petitions distributed by journalists during the protests said the ban breached constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression.

Tempo and DeTik had recently reported on a rift between Mr. Habibie and the armed forces and Finance Ministry over the purchase of 39 former East German ships.

Editor this month published a cover story on plans to set up a nationalist student movement, led by Trans-

migration Minister Siwono Yudhohusodo, to rival Mr. Habibie's Indonesian Muslims Intellectual Association.

The Australian government Wednesday criticised Indonesia's decision to ban the three leading magazines, describing it as a disappointing move which contrasted with a previous trend towards free expression.

"It must be said without qualification that this is a very disappointing development indeed," Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told parliament.

Mr. Evans said Indonesia had been making progress recently towards free and open expression within the media and society generally.

"Yesterday's decision is in sharp contrast to the trend as far as the media is concerned," he said.

"We hope that it doesn't signal any wider-ranging imposition and that the magazines will sooner, rather than later, be permitted to resume publication."

With a circulation of over 450,000, DeTik is by far the most popular of the three. Tempo has a circulation of 200,000, while Editor sells 87,000 copies a week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish U.N. troops arrive in Croatia

ZAGREB (R) — The first of the Turkish soldiers scheduled for deployment as U.N. peacekeepers along frontlines in Bosnia began to arrive at the Croatian port of Split on Wednesday, U.N. officials said. "They have started arriving in the area today, with the first group of 250 soldiers," Mathew Nerzig, U.N. spokesman in Zagreb told Reuters. The group, the first of almost 1,500 soldiers bound for U.N. duties, arrived aboard two Turkish military ships. "They are expected to be fully deployed in Bosnia by late July," Mr. Nerzig said. Serb leaders reacted angrily to news of Turkish participation in U.N. operations in Bosnia, arguing Turkey's lengthy Ottoman rule in the region and its history of conflict with Serbs would make its soldiers favour Bosnia's Muslims. The U.N. says it will station the Turks on position in central Bosnia between Bosnia's Croats and Muslims, allowing British soldiers to be redeployed elsewhere.

800 evacuated from Mallorca hotel

MALLORCA, Spain (AFP) — Eight hundred people were evacuated from the blazing Rey Don Jaime Hotel in Calvia on the Balearic island of Mallorca Wednesday. German tourists Willy Kemper and Louis Dalemman, and Britons Colin Sandeman and Ian Sutherland were hospitalised with smoke-poisoning. Officials could not give an immediate cause for the fire, which destroyed about 50 rooms of the hotel in the small town west of Palma on this popular Mediterranean resort island. The hotel management said it would resettle a hundred or so guests into neighbouring establishments.

Simpson's alibi contradicted

LOS ANGELES (R) — Football superstar O.J. Simpson's alibi that he was home alone waiting for a ride to the airport at the time his ex-wife and a friend of hers were murdered was contradicted by two people in reports Tuesday. A separate report said the attack was so vicious that Nicole Brown Simpson, the football hall of fame's 35-year-old ex-wife was unable to call for help because her vocal chords were cut almost immediately in the attack by the knife-slashing assailant. NBC News, quoting law enforcement sources, reported that Kayto Kaelin, the caretaker at Simpson's \$1.2 million estate in the exclusive Brentwood section of the city, confirmed that Simpson was not at home waiting for a limousine as his lawyer Robert Shapiro has claimed. KABC television, an affiliate of the ABC network, quoted an unnamed Los Angeles county coroner's source as saying the killer used a serrated knife to kill Nicole Brown Simpson and her male friend outside her \$700,000 townhouse in the exclusive Brentwood section of the city nine days ago.

Famine kills 40 a day in Ethiopia

ARAKA, Ethiopia (R) — Some 40 people — many children — are dying each day in the single district of Bolsari in southeast Ethiopia, stirring fears of a repeat of the great famine that killed a million people a decade ago. Local officials in Wolaita zone in the southeast estimated nearly one-third of its three million people were in emergency need of aid because of little or no rain in the last four years. Fekadeslassie Beza, administrator of Bolsari, told Reuters 40 people were dying due to famine in his district alone. Rains failed last summer and rains usually from February to April were late. A total of 5,327 deaths were reported in Bolsari between Jan. 1 and April 20. Aid workers said children under the age of 10 accounted for about 60 per cent of the deaths and most of them were killed by illness fuelled by severe malnutrition. Wolaita is about 450 kilometres southwest of the capital Addis Ababa. In the village of Araka, a father of four said he was so weak from hunger one night he could not ward off hyenas which snatched and killed one of his children. He said his wife had died a week earlier and he was unable even to call for help.

3 held in killing of Italian priest

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Police Wednesday arrested three people in connection with the killing of an anti-mafia priest in Sicily last year. Arrest warrants were also served to two suspected mafiosi in jail on other charges. Father Giuseppe Puglisi was shot in the back of the head outside his home in the drab and crime-ridden industrial Brancaccio Neighbourhood last September. From his church in the neighbourhood, one of the toughest in the Sicilian capital, Fr. Puglisi often preached against the mafia and warned young people to steer clear of the organisation. The three men arrested

were charged with having intimidated the priest in the run-up to his killing. Giuseppe and Filippo Graviano, the two imprisoned mafia bosses who controlled the Brancaccio Neighbourhood, were charged with ordering the killing. Fr. Puglisi's actual killers remain unidentified and at large.

LDP to table no-confidence motion

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) formally decided Wednesday to table a no-confidence motion against the minority government of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, party officials said. The motion is expected to be submitted to parliament Friday after the government's fiscal 1994 budget is given final parliamentary approval Thursday, LDP sources said. The left wing Social Democratic Party (SDP), the second largest opposition group, started talks Wednesday with the ruling coalition on the formation of a new cabinet. SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama has said the Socialist Party was ready to form a caretaker cabinet with the LDP if talks with Mr. Hata's coalition failed. The SDP left the ruling camp shortly before Mr. Hata formed his cabinet in late April. Mr. Hata has urged the SDP to return to the coalition. A no-confidence motion against the fragile Hata cabinet will easily pass through parliament if the LDP and the SDP join hands as they hold a majority. But it remained unclear whether all members of the two parties would support it.

Angolan mediator to meet Mandela

LUSAKA (R) — The chief U.N. mediator in Angolan peace talks and observers from the United States, Russia and Portugal were expected to meet South African President Nelson Mandela Thursday to discuss ways to end one of Africa's longest-running civil wars, a source close to the talks said Wednesday. The source said U.N. mediator Alioune Blondin Beye and the observers were expected to meet Mr. Mandela in Cape Town Thursday and return to Lusaka Friday.

Talks on Hong Kong make headway

HONG KONG (AFP) — Sino-British talks on Hong Kong were making headway Wednesday, negotiators said, as a top Chinese official suggested Beijing was prepared to accept a financing plan for the colony's new airport. "We've covered a lot of ground. The atmosphere continues to be constructive," chief British negotiator Hugh Davies said after the second day of Sino-British Joint Liaison Group talks. He declined to give details, but Mr. Davis and Chinese counterpart Guo Fengmin promised to say "something more" when their meeting winds up Thursday.

Macedonia launches ethnic census

SKOPJE (R) — Macedonia launched an ambitious ethnic census Tuesday in a bid to resolve political tensions in the former Yugoslav republic but the survey was plagued by delays in some areas, census officials said. The two-week census, sponsored and supervised by the European Union, is aimed at settling conflicting claims by rival ethnic groups over population ratios in Macedonia. The census got off to a slow start in western Macedonia, State Census Commission officials told Reuters. In the towns of Tetovo and Gostivar the survey had yet to begin, said the officials, who asked not to be identified. Although the European Union sent monitors to the republic to ensure international standards were upheld, ethnic Albanian leaders accused authorities of failing to make necessary technical preparations and said the composition of census commissions lacked ethnic balance. Albanians make up one of the largest and politically restive minorities in Macedonia's 2.2 million population, which includes Macedonians, Serbs, Vlachs, Bulgars and, according to Greece, some Greeks.

De Michelis cleared on graft count

MILAN (R) — A court Wednesday cleared former Foreign Minister Giovanni De Michelis, one of the most internationally known casualties of Italy's massive graft scandals, of one count of bribery. But the court told the prosecution to press ahead with action on another count of breaking laws on the financing of political parties. The rotund, long-haired De Michelis had been charged with violation of party financing laws for accepting a promise of a 70 million lire (\$44 million) contribution to his Socialist Party's campaign for general elections in 1992. The court ruled De Michelis could not be found guilty since the money promised by an environmental services company was never handed over.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three changes likely for Mexico

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Mexico are likely to make three changes to the team to take on Group E surprise Ireland here Friday with Alberto Garcia Aspe, Carlos Hermosillo and Marcelino Bernal earning the starting nod. Midfielder Bernal came on as a substitute in the 1-0 defeat to Norway. He is expected to start while Raul Gutierrez stays on the bench. Garcia Aspe, who has completed a one-match ban, will replace Luis Garcia in midfield and Hermosillo will replace Luis Valdes in attack. Veteran Hugo Sanchez says he has recovered from a slight thigh strain.

Norway newspaper's Cup gamble

OSLO (AFP) — Norway's largest evening paper Verdens Gang (VG) bet 660,000 kroner (\$94,285) here Wednesday on the Norwegian World Cup football team reaching the World Cup finals. VG placed the bet at 12-1 odds — which could earn it a pay-out of eight million kroner (\$1.14 million).

Korean workers plan Cup strike

SEOUL (AFP) — Around 25,000 South Korean workers plan a three-hour strike Friday — at the same time as South Korea play Bolivia in the World Cup. The workers at Hyundai Heavy Industries in the southern city of Ulsan said they would need three hours to vote on whether to go on a longer walkout over pay demands. South Korea came to a virtual standstill Saturday when its team drew 2-2 with Spain.

Millwall gets suspended penalties

LONDON (AP) — The Millwall soccer club was found guilty Tuesday of failing to control its fans at last month's promotional playoff game against Derby, but it escaped with suspended penalties from the Football Association (FA). The team was told it would have to play two home matches behind closed doors and face a £100,000 (\$150,000) fine — but both sanctions were suspended for the next two seasons. Three league points were also deducted, but again the penalty was suspended — this time until the end of December. FA spokesman David Bloomfield said the suspended sentences would be imposed, in part or in full, in the event of serious misconduct involving Millwall or its fans, either at home or away. Seven people were injured and 16 arrested in fan violence at the May 18 playoff semifinal game at Millwall's ground. Twice, fans ran onto the field during the game, threatening.

Japan's premier honours Zico

TOKYO (R) — Brazilian soccer legend Zico was honoured by Japan's prime minister Wednesday for his contribution to establishing the country's professional soccer league. In a ceremony at his official residence, Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata gave the 41-year-old veteran a testimonial and a deer skin ball used in "kemari," a form of football enjoyed by nobles in ancient Japan, a spokeswoman at the prime minister's office said. Last week Zico, whose full name is Arthur Antunes Coimbra, ended his long professional career in triumph, scoring his 817th goal and setting up another to give his Japanese club Kashima Antlers a 2-1 victory. Alongside former England soccer captain Gary Lineker, Zico was one of the big names imported for the establishment of Japan's professional league last May. He is the first foreign soccer player to win official recognition for his services. Media reports said Zico was planning to return to Brazil to set up a soccer school.

FIFA finds plastic solution for drinks

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — Team officials will be allowed to throw plastic bags full of water onto the pitch so their players can drink at any time during World Cup games. That is FIFA's solution to a problem raised by Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton. General Secretary Sepp Blatter said players could seek drinks on all sides of the pitch providing it did not interfere with play. "Players are most certainly allowed to drink," added Blatter. "We don't want to affect their health but at the same time we don't want bottles thrown on to the pitch." FIFA's solution was explained by the Football Association of Ireland Chief Executive Sean Connolly. "We'll now be allowed to throw plastic bags of water to the players from all sides of the pitch at practically any time," he said. "It is not exactly a directive but I've been in touch with the local FIFA guy in Orlando and he has confirmed it. It is encouraging, at least, that they have at last taken notice of the concern we've been expressing." "I also believe referees have had a strong word about it, having suffered the effects of the heat themselves. I noticed the guy in charge of the Norway-Mexico game in Washington Sunday actually stopped the game twice so people could have a drink. Charlton's request for American football-style time-outs for drinks to avoid dehydration has been rejected. Charlton acted after seeing his striker Tommy Coyne become violently ill after Saturday's win over Italy.

Ireland moves into 2nd place in World Cup poll

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Ireland jumped from eighth to second place behind Brazil in the Sprint soccer poll following its 1-0 upset of Italy in the opening round of the World Cup, poll organizers said Tuesday. The poll is a weekly ranking of the top 10 national teams as voted on by an international panel of soccer journalists. Brazil, which topped Russia 2-0, received 25 of a possible 47 first-place votes, and totalled 360 points. Ireland had 22 first-place votes and 326 points. The Netherlands, which edged Saudi Arabia 2-1, re-

Cameroon seeking 'shock of the century'

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AFP) — Cameroon, past masters at World Cup upsets, are aiming for the ultimate in giant-killing when they meet three-time champions Brazil here Friday.

"To beat Brazil would be the shock of the century, but we think we can do it," said striker Francois Omam-Biyik, who shot to fame when his 65th-minute goal downed Argentina in the Italy finals four years ago.

Midfielder Cyrille Makana switched from the right to the left wing and floated in a cross to the penalty spot. Omam-Biyik soared above the defence and headed down past goalkeeper Nery Pumpido.

From then on, the life of the Lens striker changed as people recognised him in the street and wanted his autograph.

The 28-year-old former Olympique Marseille and Canon Yaounde player admitted the atmosphere in the United States does not match their Italy campaign when they reached the quarter-finals.

"It's true the atmosphere is not the same around us, even if we have received a marvelous welcome from the public. But we know how to enjoy ourselves," he added.

Omam-Biyik, set to win his 63rd cap at Stanford Stadium Friday in their Group B match, had little doubt Cameroon would score goals.

Klinsmann saves Germany

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — In another stunning upset at Wimbledon, 120th-seeded Bryan Shelton routed No. 23 seed and 1991 champion Michael Stich 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 Wednesday.

Stich joined fellow German Steffi Graf, the women's top seed and defending champion, as a first-round loser to an unseeded American. Graf's loss to Lori McNeil Tuesday was the first time a defending women's champion lost in the first round, and Stich became only the second men's No. 2 seed to lose that early.

But No. 1 men's seed, defending champion Pete Sampras, preserved some sense of order with a brisk 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 second-round victory over fellow American Richey Reneberg.

Shelton, who had to win three qualifying matches to make the field, has never gotten past the third round of any Grand Slam and never before beat a player in the top five. But he totally outplayed Stich, who let his frustrations show and was targeted by boos when he exited court two.

"It's one of the top matches of my career so far," said Shelton, 28. "Nothing seemed to bother me from

the beginning to the end."

Stich, though ranked No. 2 in the world after Pete Sampras, has struggled badly in recent Grand Slams. He lost in the first round of the 1993 U.S. open and in the Australian Open this year, and was ousted in the second round of the recent French Open.

"I didn't play great, I didn't play bad," Stich said. "He was just too good to today... He could have closed his eyes and hit it wherever he wanted."

In other matches Wednesday, 20-year-old Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the No. 15 seed, outlasted Dutchman Laurence Tieleman in the completion of a marathon suspended match, 7-5, 6-7 (7-5), 6-7 (7-5), 10-8. Another Russian, Andrei Olhovskiy, beat 16th seeded Armand DBoetsch of France, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5.

France's Guy Forget, who missed the last five Grand Slams because of injuries, beat Doug Flach, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. But another veteran Frenchman, crowd-favourite Henri Leconte, withdrew with back problems five games into the fifth set of a battle with Spain's Alex Corretja.

In women's second-round matches, third-seeded Conchita Martinez beat Japan's

Nana Miyagi, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3), and No. 6 seed Kimiko Date crushed Britain's Shiri Ann Siddall, 6-2, 6-0.

No. 9 Lindsay Davenport, just back from her high school graduation in California, beat South African Tessa Price, 6-4, 6-2, and 12th seeded Zina Garrison Jackson beat Katarina Stefanikova of Slovakia, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

But No. 12 seed Anke Huber joined the ranks of German upset victims, falling to Ines Gorrochategui of Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Gabriela Sabatini, the No. 10 seed, salvaged a 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 first-round victory over Austria's Judith Wiesner. And Helena Sukova, designated the 17th seed after the withdrawal of No. 7 May Pierce, beat American Tami Whitlinger, 6-7 (9-7), 6-2, 6-6.

Davenport, a solid grass-court player, is one of several women suddenly seen as contenders for the title following Graf's historic defeat by McNeil.

With Graf gone, either Martina Navratilova, in her farewell appearance at 37, somehow wins her 10th Wimbledon crown, or the Graf-Navratilova lock on the title ends after 12 years, and a brand-new champion emerges.



A young couple uses the rain delay to turn their attention towards more personal matters during the match between Patrick Rafter of Australia and compatriot Jamie Morgan Tuesday at the Wimbledon tennis championships. Rain has already caused several delays in play (AFP photo).

Investigators look into allegations of preferential treatment for Tyson

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Investigators from the Indiana Department of Correction have asked to check into allegations that several agency officials accepted payments for preferential treatment for boxer Mike Tyson. DOC commissioner Chris DeBruyn said he involved the agency's internal affairs division because of comments made two weeks ago by James Bell Yager, a well-known jailhouse lawyer and inmate advocate, the Indianapolis News reported Tuesday. Yager told the News that at least three high-ranking

DOC officials were on Tyson's "prison payroll." Details of the alleged payments are expected to be disclosed soon in a tabloid newspaper that was not identified. The publication reportedly paid Yager \$125,000 for information about the alleged payments.

As part of the deal, Yager provided 219 pages from his "Tyson diary," and audio tapes containing secretly recorded conversations that he claims will embarrass the DOC. One of the exchanges is allegedly between a key prison administrator and boxing promoter Don King. DeBruyn said he has no reason to believe that any DOC official has acted improperly.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMMAM HIRSH
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THERE'S A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ K Q 6
♥ A K J 9
♦ A J 8 3
♣ Q 6
WEST
♠ J 7 3
♥ 5 2
♦ 10 6 5 2
♣ 8 4 2
EAST
♠ 10 4
♥ Q 7 6 3
♦ 9 4
♣ K 8 7 5 3
SOUTH
♠ A 8 5 2
♥ 10 8 4
♦ K 7
♣ A J 10
The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
6 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of
There are two stages to successful play: First, spot the different possibilities for your contract. Next, plan to make use of as many of them as possible. Consider this deal from an expert's bidding judgment, not convention, ruled the day.
North-South reached an excellent contract of six no trump with the minimum of fuss. South suppressed the weak four-card major in favor of showing a balanced 13-15 and North applied simple arithmetic to reach the conclusion that slam would have good play.
After a diamond lead declarer can count 10 fast tricks and a sure 11 in hearts or clubs. What possibilities are there for the 12th?
There are three winning finesses in either hearts or clubs, or a 3-2 break in spades. In what order should they be tried?
At the table declarer elected to win the first trick in hand and try the heart finesse. That led to East, who cleverly shifted to a club. Rather than bank everything on the finesse, declarer chose to rise with the ace and hope for an even spade split or a squeeze. Down one.
Since declarer cannot afford to set up a spade trick for the enemy and then take a losing finesse, the first order of business should be to take one of the finesses. We've seen what happens if the heart finesse loses. Declarer should take the safe club finesse first, ensuring to the king of spades to do so.
If that loses, declarer can win any return, cash the high spades and, if the suit doesn't split evenly, fall back on the heart finesse. That allows declarer to try all three lines and land the slam, if any one of them produces an extra trick.

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Tender No. (27/94)

Jordan University of Science & Technology has pleasure in inviting Local Consultants and International Consultants in Joint-venture with Local Consultants to submit their applications and their technical and financial offers for the Consulting and Supervision of the Construction of the King Abdullah Hospital Project. Application forms can be obtained from the Secretary of the Centre Tendering Committee during working hours (Saturday-Wednesday) starting Saturday June 25, 1994 till Saturday July 9, 1994 at a non-refundable fee of JD100 (One Hundred Jordanian Dinars). Submission of the documents should be in accordance with the following conditions:
1. Tender proposals should be submitted by hand to the Chairman of the Central Tendering Committee not later than 12:00 noon, Saturday July 23, 1994.
2. Each tender shall be accompanied by tender bond in favour of the Jordan University of Science and Technology drawn from or approved by an accredited bank in Jordan in an amount not less than two per cent (2%) of the total tender sum. Such bond shall remain valid for a period of not less than three months from the closing date of the Tender Submission.
3. Tender proposals not abiding by the above-mentioned conditions and the conditions mentioned in the Tender Documents will not be considered.
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T O D A Y	JURASSIC PARK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Christian Slates in KUFFS Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' DENNIS THE MENACE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' F.X.2 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15	Soon the new play!!!	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tues days.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Omani women can enter parliament

MUSCAT (AP) — For the first time in the conservative Gulf Arab region, women have gained the right to become members of parliament and to be involved in the process of selecting its members, officials announced Wednesday. The Majlis Al Shura is a traditional consultative council. It has no formal powers, but is consulted by the ruler, Sultan Qaboos, on new laws and public policy. Until now, it has 59 members but the new one to be chosen this year will have 80. Muscat's deputy governor, Barash Bin Saeed Al Saeed, told a press conference that only women from the capital district of Muscat, which has 11 seats, can become members or elect members. Mr. Saeed said allowing women a greater role in the process was designed to help the Majlis to "contribute with a bigger and more effective role in turning the wheel of development in the country. In the Omani system, only a few thousand community leaders nationwide are involved in the election of Majlis members. They gather in conclaves at the provincial level to vote for nominees, and the winners' names are forwarded to Sultan Qaboos, who determines the final composition of the body.

Sudan gets tough on alcohol drinkers

KHARTOUM (R) — Police have mounted a campaign to eradicate the brewing and drinking of home-made liquor in Sudan's Khartoum state under the slogan "a year without alcohol," a local newspaper reported Wednesday. The crackdown will be pursued for a year in the capital and the state's three provinces, the government-owned Al Inqad Al Watani newspaper said. Sharia Islamic law, which has been in force in Sudan since 1991, prohibits the making and drinking of alcohol. Offenders are often caned, imprisoned or fined. Many of them are from the one million refugees who fled fighting between government troops and rebels in the south of the country and have settled on the outskirts of Khartoum.

U.N. to supply Iran with contraceptives

NICOSIA (R) — A U.N. agency has approved a \$10 million plan to supply Iran with contraceptives and help in other population projects, Iran's IRNA news agency said on Wednesday. Under the five-year programme running to 1998, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) would complement the Iranian government's projects to reduce Iran's population growth, IRNA quoted a U.N. statement issued in Tehran as saying. About half of the sum is earmarked for family planning and better health care for mothers and children. "UNFPA would also assist in meeting Iran's contraceptive requirements," IRNA said. Birth control programme adopted by Iran over the past five years despite opposition by some traditionalist Muslim clerics have substantially reduced population growth.

Iranian dies in police custody in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — A 31-year-old Iranian man has died in police custody shortly after being arrested in a swoop on suspected illegal immigrants, Japanese press reports said Wednesday. They said Mehrooz Arjang was picked up as part of an operation by some 200 police which arrested 48 Iranians Monday night in Tokyo's Ueno Park, a gathering place for illegal immigrants from Iran. Police said Arjang had deliberately banged his head shortly after arrest. Arjang reportedly said he was suffering from a headache shortly after and was taken to hospital, where officials said an X-ray revealed no injury. He was returned to the police station where his condition deteriorated around dawn Tuesday, the police said, and then taken back to hospital, where he died about one hour later. The Iranian had intentionally slammed his head against the seat of the mini-bus that was taking him to jail, the police said adding that an autopsy has been ordered.

Algerian prime minister seeks aid

PARIS (AFP) — Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi arrived here on Wednesday seeking economic support from the former colonial power France for his country torn by a war with Islamic fundamentalists. Sifi, on his first visit abroad since he was appointed last April 11, was accompanied by Finance Minister Ahmad Benbitour and other senior officials. He was to meet President Francois Mitterrand later Wednesday and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on Thursday. France was instrumental three weeks ago in arranging the rescheduling of Algeria's \$26 billion foreign debts, and considers that economic support is vital to prevent the country from sliding further into chaos. Paris will tell Mr. Sifi his military-backed government must engage in dialogue with all parties that reject terrorism, including Islamic moderates, French officials said.

'Growing threat from hi-tech Jew-haters'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Anti-Semitic groups are exploiting state of the art communications to pose a growing international threat, according to a report previewed Wednesday by Tel Aviv University. "Utilising the latest communications techniques, racist groups in Western Europe achieved high levels of cooperation in... finance, training, legal advice, translation and distribution of hate literature, and the organisation of demonstrations and international congresses," the report found. "These groups have adopted the most modern communications methods such as electronic mail networks, video games and direct mail. There is also exploitation of computer software technology by creating diskette containing detailed instructions for preparing bombs," Dima Porat, director of the study, said. "We view with great concern the international links of extremist groups, calling on law enforcement agencies to act against the spread of hatred across borders."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday hands the sword of honour to a graduate officer from Muta University

Regent urges army graduates to uphold spirit of Arab revolt

MUTA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday urged graduates from the military wing of Muta University to follow on the footsteps of the forebears of the standards of the Great Arab Revolt.

"As you now join the military institution you will be bearing the honour and the duties of those who have served this country before and defended its soil since the outbreak of the Great Arab Revolt and during the various conflicts in which Jordan offered sacrifices in defence of the homeland," the Regent said.

"You are expected to be loyal to your homeland and to following your predecessors in upholding our principles and stand," Prince Hassan told the graduates.

He urged them to remain steadfast behind their leadership and back the King's endeavours in bolstering national unity and defending the national soil.

Referring to the situation in the Middle East, Crown Prince Hassan said that the whole region was now going through rapid and varied changes and witnessing crucial events and developments.

"These developments require us to be vigilant and strong enough to confront the challenges ahead and to deal with them objectively, wisely and with a clear vision," he said.

"Our position should be based on a concept of clear vision and scientific knowledge and not on the basis of wishful thinking nor should we merely accept what is being decided for us by the others," the Regent said.

The Regent said that our domestic front should be united and informed of the developments on the international scene so that the nation's potentials and capabilities can be fused together and to confront the domestic as well as the external challenges.

It should be emphasised that the basic challenge facing the country at the moment is the will to change, a decision that should be taken by the people and their leadership together at the appropriate moment.

He said that the desired change was needed by Jordan to enable it to move on towards safeguarding the country's national interests.

At the end of the ceremony, which was attended by acting Prime Minister Thawqat Hindawi and other officials and high ranking army officers, the Regent distributed diplomas and prizes to the graduates.

Hizbullah attacks Israel in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AFP) — Hizbullah fighters attacked an Israeli patrol with rockets, machine guns and mortars overnight in south Lebanon but caused no casualties, a pro-Israeli radio reported on Wednesday. In Tel Aviv, chief of staff General Ehd Barak said Israel will continue to strike against the group.

The patrol was heading for Tallussa, an outpost controlled by Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on the outskirts of the western sector of the "security zone" controlled by Israel along the two countries' border since 1985, the radio said. Guerrillas fired Sager rockets, machine guns and volleys of 120 mm and 81 mm mortars causing no casualties among the soldiers, Sawt Al Jumb (Voice of the South) radio reported.

Israeli soldiers and SLA militiamen retaliated by pounding villages facing Tallussa, the radio added.

"The Hizbullah has recently taken a series of very hard blows and lost dozens of fighters while numerous others had been wounded and we

will continue to act," Gen. Barak told Israel radio.

He recalled Israel's kidnapping on May 21 of Mustapha Dirani, a Lebanese Muslim leader and air raids which have followed.

More than 30 Hizbullah guerrillas died in a raid on June 2.

"Hizbullah is of course trying to react and we will do our best to prevent attacks knowing that the struggle will

go on," Gen. Barak said.

Israeli warplanes blasted Hizbullah positions Monday and Tuesday and guerrillas fired back Katyusha rockets.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sought Tuesday to play down the fighting a day after an Israeli soldier died and four others were wounded. A Lebanese woman has been killed and four other civilians wounded in the recent violence.

Yeltsin-Clinton summit set

BRUSSELS (R) — Russia and the United States announced on Wednesday that President Boris Yeltsin has accepted U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation to a summit in the United States in September.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced the agreement after talks in Brussels, following Russia's signature of NATO's "partnership for peace" scheme.

U.S. officials said that while the summit was agreed for September, no specific

date had been set.

"We are very pleased that President Yeltsin accepted President Clinton's invitation to visit the United States in September," Mr. Christopher told a news conference with Mr. Kozyrev.

White House officials said on Wednesday that Mr. Clinton would hold talks with Mr. Yeltsin in Naples on July 10 during the G-7 summit of the leaders of the world's richest countries and would probably announce the date of their summit at that time.

Lawyers ask Council of Europe to suspend Turkey

STRASBOURG, France (R)

Fourteen European lawyers, including two former French ministers, appealed to the European Commission on Human Rights on Wednesday to protect six Kurdish members of parliament imprisoned in Turkey.

The group, including former Socialist Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, also urged the 32-nation Council of Europe, the commission's parent organisation, to suspend Turkey's membership until it changed policy towards the Kurdish people.

The Kurdish members of parliament have been detained on treason charges that carry a maximum death penalty since last March, when the Turkish national assembly lifted their immunity, a decision upheld by the country's constitutional court.

The lawyers said their detention violated four articles

of the European convention on human rights, protecting members of parliament from politically-motivated arrest and imprisonment, upholding freedom of speech and barring discrimination on grounds of race or language.

The commission must first decide whether the complaint is admissible before it can be heard by the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr. Dumas told reporters the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly, which passed a resolution on April 13 calling for the deputies' release, would examine a motion calling for Turkey's suspension next Monday.

"This is an urgent matter, the facts of the case are serious and justify immediate action... I would be surprised and disappointed if they did not take up a problem so basic as the Kurdish problem, which is a sort of cancer in Europe's midst," Mr. Dumas said.

British MP targets France in war of words

LONDON (R) — The French have a word for it but if a British politician gets his way it will be crime to use it. Order an "aperitif" in a British bar and you could face an on-the-spot fine. Demand an "encore" at the end of an opera and you might be in trouble with the law. In a tongue-in-cheek response to French proposals to curb the creeping use of English, Conservative lawmaker Anthony Steen said he would introduce a bill in parliament next month to ban the use of French words in public English. "They say that this makes their language impure," he declared. "Well, I am determined to show how stupid they are by going a stage further and banning all use of French words written or oral in this country." His measure, the French Words (prohibition) Bill, comes before the House of Commons in July and is unlikely to go much further. A controversial bill designed to keep foreign words out of the French language has stirred controversy in France over the past months. The measure would ban the use of foreign words in work contracts, public announcements, advertising and on radio and television, where a suitable French equivalent exists.

George Michael 'slavery' plea against Sony falls

LONDON (Agencies) — British pop star George Michael lost his court battle to scrap his contract with record label Sony, but vowed to appeal to end the "professional slavery" he said music companies inflicted on their artists. The singer, in a dark suit, designer stubble and sunglasses, sat impassive on the front bench as Judge Jonathan Parker told a packed High Court that he was satisfied the contract was "reasonable and fair" and that Sony had behaved properly. The ruling leaves a big question mark over Michael's future as he has vowed never to record for Sony again. Michael has been consoling by the Princess of Wales throughout his unsuccessful eight-month legal battle with Sony, the Daily Mirror said Wednesday.

Patient was awake during hip surgery

SYDNEY (AFP) — Every body's worst nightmare came true for Ivans Parums as he woke up — paralysed — under the surgeon's scalpel on the operating table of an Australian hospital. He tried to speak, but could not, as the scalpel sliced his flesh at the start of hip replacement operation, Mr. Parums told AFP Wednesday. Although an epidural injection spared him the pain, he panicked as he realised the general anaesthetic had failed and felt the surgeon's power-saw carve through bone while he was unable to move a muscle or make a sound. A flaw in the connection of an anaesthetic gas vapouriser is being blamed for the incident.

King: President Assad and I understand each other very well

(Continued from Page 5)

treaty will be the crowning achievement of these negotiations. Is it possible that a meeting between yourself and Prime Minister Rabin may take place before a peace treaty is signed?

KING HUSSEIN: That is very possible. Anything is possible. It will not take place exactly now but at the moment there is a mechanism for negotiations — (inaudible) — and if and when there is a reason by us, or by the Israelis, or jointly for us to meet we will meet. It is not a taboo. Nothing can prevent that and I hope it will come.

HUDA TEWFIQ: Your Majesty, on the boycott. How can Jordan implement all these peace proposals and peace ventures and keep the boycott against Israel?

KING HUSSEIN: What, I do not understand your question?

HUDA TEWFIQ: The Arab boycott.

KING HUSSEIN: I think it is a simplistic way of asking the question — There is a boycott, there is a tertiary boycott, there is a secondary boycott. There is a problem, I do not know if — (inaudible). The Israelis say that — (inaudible). The boycott might be against us against being able to compete. It is something we have to discuss — (inaudible).

HUDA TEWFIQ: With Israel, not within the Arab (League)?

KING HUSSEIN: (Inaudible)

Q: (Inaudible, laughter)

BARBARA FERGUSON: Your Majesty, since the announcement was made of the rapprochement between you and Israel last week, have you been in contact with any of the Gulf Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, and shall we hope for a warming of relationships between these two countries?

KING HUSSEIN: We have not been in touch since — (inaudible)

Q: Your Majesty, is there a better world understanding of Jordan's position during the Gulf war than before, and how does that help in enhancing Jordan's relations with the world?

KING HUSSEIN: I believe here there is a better understanding, yes, of Jordan's position during the Gulf war, and the rest of the world. That is also a fact and I hope that our position will be understood for what it really was and what it really has been — throughout that very dark moment and it will always be. We have our own positions that we adopt for the sake of what we believe in the best interest of all and our concerns for the region were real and I think that they have been justified. We tried to prevent... we tried to reverse occupation peacefully... (inaudible). Unfortunately the problem is with some brethren who still believe that we knew that Kuwait was going to be attacked — that we were a party to a plan allegedly to create interruption in that area and this is totally false and I wish to God that somebody will be able to come out and talk to us about it in any detail. We know where we are, we know where we were. So, somehow this problem is going to be addressed. It has not been so far, we have not been able to deal with it satisfactorily and it would be in the interest of all to come out and find exactly what happened. Who was responsible for — (inaudible) — such an idea... to avoid falling into such pitfalls in the future. We have done everything in our power. We have indicated time and again that any step towards us will be met by two — (inaudible) — but beyond that we can't do more. So we have to wait and see in time I hope things will move in that direction.

MOHAMMAD WAHBY: Have their been any contacts

with Egypt, also regarding progress as far as peace is concerned with Israel? Any contacts with Cairo?

KING HUSSEIN: No contacts.

MOHAMMAD WAHBY: No contacts at all?

KING HUSSEIN: In the sense of what contacts?

Q: I mean to appraise them of what's happening, just as President Assad does, and the Palestinians do, you know, in that sense.

KING HUSSEIN: This happens normally.

Q: That happens normally... (inaudible)

KING HUSSEIN: That happens normally, but have I talked with President Mubarak in the last...

Q: Or any prime minister...

KING HUSSEIN: This hasn't happened, I have talked to him a while ago — (inaudible).

TRUDY RUBIN: Your Majesty, you said you met — as you said, you met frequently with President Assad, and you said, if I understood you correctly, that you understand each other's position. Does that mean that should you meet with Prime Minister Rabin in the course of negotiations, when you thought the time was right, that you would assume that President Assad would understand that and there would not be any worsening of relations between...

KING HUSSEIN: I don't think that there is any reason for the worsening of relations. There is reason for improvement of the relations. I hope that will still be a fact. I haven't heard from President Assad — (inaudible). So whatever has been said — (inaudible).

Q: Your Majesty, can you describe the state of the Jordanian economy?

KING HUSSEIN: It's passing through a difficult phase. I think we have done a lot in the recent past, but we are carrying a very, very heavy burden, and I hope somehow that all the

efforts will result in some improvement in terms of the Jordanian economy in the future, through opportunities that will enable us to move ahead so that we bring about a change in the quality of life of our people and meet their demands and needs and expectations regarding the future.

Q: What would a peace do? What will it...

KING HUSSEIN: It would enhance these possibilities, but obviously we're passing through a moment where we hope that we get support from a number of friends — (inaudible).

AMAL MUDALLALI: Your Majesty, there were reports about invitations for you to visit Jerusalem. Do you think you negotiations are over if you sign a treaty with Israel?

KING HUSSEIN: I think that there is a lot of speculation around what is realistic, so I can't say anything with that an Arab, as a Jordanian to — (inaudible). When it is possible are sacred to all of us and respected by all of us — sovereignty is that of the Almighty God and all of it. I hope I will be able to visit Jerusalem.

Q: May I ask, with Syria and Lebanon, did you exchange any information on the agreement with Israel? What is really... define Syria's position on this thing?

KING HUSSEIN: (Inaudible) — I'll tell you one thing, we have never so far, as I am concerned, up to this moment, been able to sit together with any of our Arab brethren and discuss everything in detail. They have their own problems and we don't know about them except after the fact and we have our own problems that we deal with. But in terms of a direction for peace, this is something that is — (inaudible). There is and...